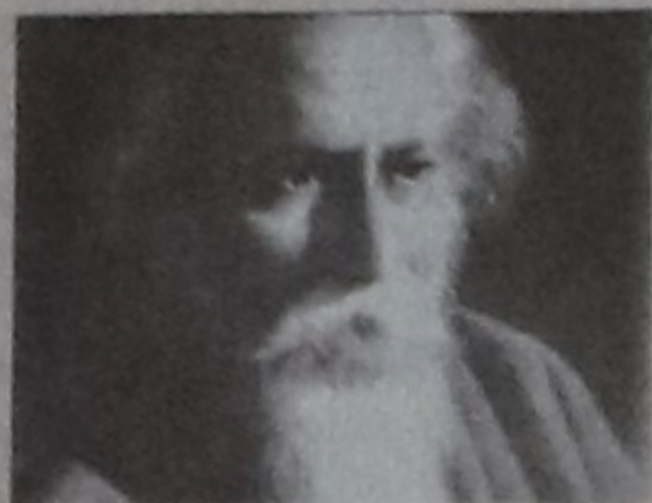


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

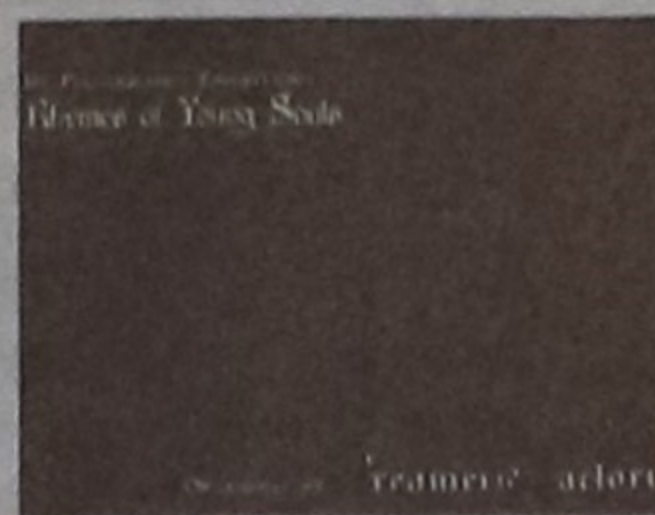
Musical Soiree
Title: Jharichhey Srabono Dhara
Organiser: Nandan
Venue: Chhayanaut, Dhanmondi
Date: July 24
Time: 7:15pm



Musical Soiree
Title: Borsha Boron-1416
Organiser: Amra Surjamukhi
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: July 19
Time: 7pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: Rhymes of Young Souls
Organiser: Dreamers' Factory
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: July 17-21
Time: 3-8pm



Film Screening
Organiser: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka (AFD) and Zahir Raihan Film Society
Venue: AFD, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: July 20-24 at 5 & 7pm
July 20: 'Jules and Jim' & 'The Fire Within'



Ferdausi Rahman honoured



PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

Ferdausi Rahman receives a crest from Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Veteran artiste Ferdausi Rahman was honoured at the Radisson Water Garden Hotel on July 17. As part of 'Gunijon Shongbordhona' programme, Ferdausi Rahman was greeted with a standing ovation at the event. Her melodious voice and popular songs have found a special place in the hearts of millions. A legion of A-list stars paid homage to Rahman with special performances and moving words on her contribution. The theme of this year's programme was

"Aji jhoro jhoro mukhoro badolo diney."

Noted litterateur Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed felicitated Rahman on the occasion and presented a brief bio of the artiste.

As part of the award the singer received a crest and a cash prize of BDT 50,000.

In her speech, Ferdausi Rahman said, "Through patronage of arts and culture, forces of evil can be effectively resisted." Reminiscing her childhood, Rahman said that she grew up in a musical atmosphere. Her father, legendary folk artiste

Abbasuddin Ahmed, played a significant role in her grooming as a vocalist. Rahman said that in the olden days singing was not considered a profession. Things have changed for the better, and people are now pursuing careers in music. "However, we have a long way to go. Young, aspiring singers today consider the reality shows and talent hunts on TV as instant passport to fame and money. Undivided dedication is required if one wants to be a true artiste," she said.

Moreover, she said, "Our country needs able classical music teachers. When parents

ask me, where they can take their children for classical music *taalim* (training), I can't readily think of anyone." She added, "We may go to neighbouring countries such as India or Pakistan, or invite renowned *ustads* to our country to train our singers in classical music."

The first performance at the cultural programme on the occasion was by Tagore singer Aditi Mohsin. Mohsin opened her performance with the song "Badol diner prothom kodom phool," an ode to monsoon. Next she rendered "Amar nishith-o raater badoldhara." Auditi ended her performance with "Saawan gaganey ghor ghanaghata," a song from "Bhanu Singh-er Padaboli."

Next on stage was Nazrul singer Sujit Mustafa. Mustafa performed a popular Ferdausi Rahman song "Ami shagor-er o neel," as a tribute to the artiste. A Nazrul *ghazal* "Piya piya papiya pukarey" and "Ami jey jalsha gharer," followed.

Zahir Alim (son of the late folk maestro Abdul Alim) performed some evergreen Abdul Alim songs -- "Holudia pakhi," "Porer Jayga porer jomi" and more.

Shakila Zafar the last artiste to perform sang "Ami roopnagar-er rajkanya," "Bhulitey parina" and "Tumi amar prothom shokal."

The event was organised by Citibank, N.A.



Members of the newly formed Director's Guild, an organisation of directors of TV plays, are seen in the photograph. The committee was formed at a convention held on July 17, says a press release. Nasiruddin Yousuff and Gazi Rakayet were elected as president and general secretary respectively of the organisation. The newly formed committee will be in office till 2011.

Abdullah Al Mamun birth anniversary celebration ends

Theatre stages Meraj Fakir-er Ma

JAMIL MAHMUD

The eight-day Abdullah Al Mamun birth anniversary celebration programme ended at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on July 17. On the concluding day, Theatre staged the Mamun's popular play "Meraj Fakir-er Ma."

It was the first birth anniversary celebration after Mamun's demise on August 21 last year. Mamun's troupe, Theatre, in association with BSA, arranged the celebration programme.

Apart from plays, the vibrant programme (starting on July 10) also included screening of Mamun's feature films, documentaries on him and his works, photography and book exhibition and daylong seminars.

Six invited troupes, including Nagarik Natya Sampraday, Palakar and Centre for Asian Theatre, staged Mamun's acclaimed as well as lesser-known plays like "Ekho Duhshomoy," "Bibisab" and "Shenapati."

Films directed by Mamun -- "Sareng Bou," "Dui Jibon" and "Bihanga" were screened at the festival.

In most of Mamun's plays, social elements or messages involving the ongoing struggle between middle and upper class, generating awareness against fundamentalism, and the much-discussed issue of trial of war criminals are apparent.

Written and directed by Mamun, "Meraj Fakir-er Ma" featured theatre icons Ferdousi Majumdar and Ramendu Majumdar. The full-house on the weekend was a good indication of the level of expectation.



Ferdousi Majumdar (top right) and Ramendu Majumdar (below centre), with their co-actors, brought an intense dimension to the play.



The powerful play highlights the age-old conflict between religion and humanity. What if, one morning one discovered that his/her identity was in question? That one's religious belief did not match that of his/her parents.

"Meraj Fakir-er Ma" zooms in on the fact that religion has always played a key role in our society. In most cases the essence of religion has been misinterpreted, to the benefit

of some in the society. The question, which Mamun put forward, is should religion precede humanity? In the play, these are the questions that a young man (Meraj Fakir) is forced to ask himself when his mother is dragged into a conflict.

Ferdousi Majumdar was in the role of the mother. Ramendu Majumdar played a shrewd character, Kazi Tabarak. The character of Geda Fakir, which Mamun

used to play, was enacted by Shekanul Islam Shahi. Tofa Hossain played the role of Meraj Fakir.

Earlier in the morning on the concluding day, a seminar titled "Abdullah Al Mamun: Byakti O Sroshta," was held at the seminar room of BSA. Presided over by the director general of BSA, Kamal Lohani, discussants spoke on Mamun's writings and personal endeavours.

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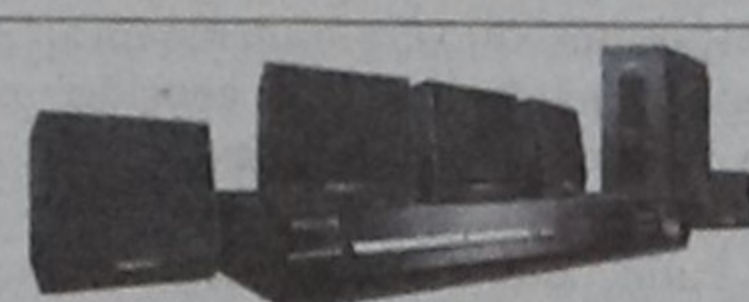
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