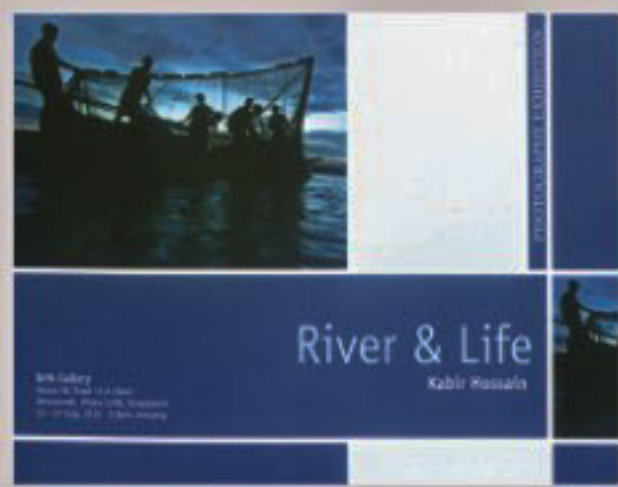


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: River and Live
Photographer: Kabir Hossain
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: July 12-17
Time: 3-8pm



Chhayanat

Rabindra Utshab
Organiser: Chhayanat
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Theatre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 16-17
Time: 6.30 pm-9.30 pm



Solo Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Sylvan Forms
Sculptor: Ferdousi Priyabhashini
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: July 19-28
Time: 12 pm-8 pm



Solo Lalon Evening

Singer: Farida Parveen
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1
Date: July 16
Time: 7pm



Curtain falls on Bulbul Ahmed



A CORRESPONDENT

Famed for his portrayal of the iconic role Debdas, Bulbul Ahmed would've turned 70 in another three months. Apparently he wanted to celebrate the upcoming birthday but fate had other plans. On July 14, around 1 am, the famed actor passed away.

Ahmed has been unwell for quite some time. On July 14, when his condition rapidly deteriorated, Ahmed was taken to Square Hospital in Dhaka. His body has been kept at BIRDEM. The *janaza* will be held today after *jumma* prayers at FDC.

A spell of sorrow has descended on Bangladeshi film industry as the news broke. Veteran actress Shabnam said, "He was a wonderful human being and could embrace anyone with ease. I'd done only one film with him -- 'Love in America' directed by Mohsin."

Actress and lawmaker Kabori had been paired with Ahmed in several films. The visibly moved actress said, "He was very gracious. I have so many fond memories involving him. We had done 'Debdas,' 'Dui Jibon,' 'Bodhu Bidaye' and 'Kolmilota.' During shooting for 'Debdas' he told me, 'Dreams are beautiful but when they get shattered, they leave behind incredible heartache.' I'll always remember that. We have not only lost a remarkable artiste but also a man with a big heart."

Noted filmmaker Chashi Nazrul Islam, who cast Ahmed as Debdas in his film, said, "With Rahman passing away, I lost my Chunilal; now I've lost Debdas. Apart from 'Debdas,' he had acted in two other films directed by me -- 'Shubhoda' and 'Bhalo Manush.' He was an educated, polished actor. His [Ahmed's] death has created an irreparable void in the movie industry."

Ahmed's contemporary, renowned actor Razzaque said, "We were not

just co-artistes; the bond between us was more than that. His sudden death has shaken me. I pray to Almighty that my friend is granted eternal peace. We had done around 18 films together. I acted in 'Rajlokkhi Srikanto' directed by Bulbul.

Fellow actor Sohel Rana said, "His [Bulbul's] passing away was certainly sudden. He was a real gentleman and never spoke in loud voice. He moved to films from TV but we became fast friends. I'll forever cherish our times spent together."

Actress Shuchorita said, "I'd been meaning to visit Bulbul *bhai* for the last few days. I still can't believe he is gone. He was very down to earth and an amazing human being."

Seasoned actress Sharmili Ahmed said, "He played the male lead opposite me in 'Rupali Shaikotey' and 'Aradhona.' I'd acted in three films directed by him. Not sure how many TV plays we'd done together. I have so many memories of him. I couldn't stop crying when I heard the news this morning."

Tabarruk Ahmed Bulbul was born on September 15, 1941 on Agamsi Lane, old Dhaka. Son of Mohammad Khalil Ahmed and Mosammat Moslema Begum, Tabarruk completed his MA from Dhaka University. His father was an amateur actor and young Tabarruk was inspired to delve into the medium by him. He worked as a banker from 1965 to '75. As an actor he decided to go by the name 'Bulbul Ahmed.' Ahmed's acting career began with theatre. His big break came with the film 'Iye Korey Biye' (1972). Among his memorable films are "Shimana Periyee," "Mohona," "Jibon Niye Jua," "Bhalo Manush," "Shesh Uttor," "Mohanayak," "Harano Manik," "Shonar Horin" and more.

Passion play: "Pran-er Khela" at Bengal Shilpalaya

KARIM WAHEED

An *ashor* has only one drawback, it cannot accommodate a big audience but it provides an artiste the opportunity to connect with listeners in a way the usual concerts cannot. This was evident at the latest (July 14) instalment of 'Pran-er Khela,' the musical soiree Bengal Foundation regularly holds at the Bengal Shilpalaya in Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

The featured artistes were Rezwanaul Haque and Sumona Bardhan.

Rezwanaul Haque won the top position (music) on the talent hunt "ATN Tarokader Taroka" in 2006. The artiste however didn't do what most of the young participants on reality TV shows do -- trying to get as much exposure and cutting as many albums as possible. Rezwanaul concentrated on his classical music lessons and the results are impressive.

The singer decided to show off (in a positive sense of course) his classical background. His repertoire included *ghazal*-tinged *ad-hunik* songs from the '60s: "Harano Din-er Kotha Mon-e Porey Jaye" (originally recorded by Mehdi Hassan); "Shundorigo Dohai Dohai Maan Korona" and "Lolita,

Okey Aaj Choley Jetye Bolna" (Manna Dey); "Ami Eto Jey Tomaye Bhalobeshchhi" and "Bon-e Noy Mon-e Mor Pakhi Aaj Gaan Gaye" (Manabendra Mukherjee). Rezwanaul also performed "Prem Ek Shuk Pakhi" (his first original song on "ATN Tarokader Taroka"). He wrapped up with a rendition of a Nazrul Sangeet made popular (or unpopular, depending on one's taste) by Muhammed Rafi: "Alga Korogo Khopar Badhon, Dil Wahi Mera Phas Gayi."

There's an unmistakable Manna Dey/ Niaz Mohammad Chowdhury influence in Rezwanaul's style. Every *mudki* and play with the high and low notes was executed with precision and a whole lot of heart.

It was Sumona's turn next. She might yet not be one of the most sought after artistes in the country, but this accomplished songstress has carved a niche for herself in the music scene. Her style has that certain *je ne sais quoi* that defines the divas of the golden era of *ad-hunik* Bangla songs -- traces of Sandhya Mukhopadhyay's enchanting lilt or Haimanti Shukla's melancholy melodies.

Citycell-Channel i Music Awards recognised Sumona's talents as well; she won in the Best New Singer cate-



Sumona Bardhan (top) and Rezwanaul Haque sing at the programme.



Michael Jackson's tomb vandalised

Michael Jackson's tomb has been vandalised. The group of vandals have marked the walls of the singer's mausoleum with hidden messages in permanent ink.

Security at Forest Lawn in Glendale is watching out for fans who have been writing messages outside the main window of the building in which MJ is entombed.

The messages are mostly hidden underneath ledges or in spots covered by bushes.

The writings include, "Miss you" and "Keep the dream alive."

"Activity such as this, is a prime example why we are evaluating the level of access to the various entrances of the Great Mausoleum," TMZ.com quoted the reps at Forest Lawn as saying.

Forest Lawn also said that anyone caught vandalising the cemetery would be banned for life.

Source: Internet



Pink Floyd reunites for Palestine

For the first time in five years, the two driving forces behind Pink Floyd, Roger Waters and David Gilmour, reunited onstage at a benefit in England over the weekend. The unannounced team-up went down before the 200 attendees of the Hopping Foundation benefit in Oxfordshire, which raised money for young Palestinian refugees.

The duo's four-song set included Phil Spector's "To Know Him Is To Love Him" (a Floyd sound-check staple according to the blog on Gilmour's website) and the band's classics "Wish You Were Here," "Comfortably Numb" and "Another Brick in the Wall, Part 2."

The Saturday night set marks the first time Waters and Gilmour have shared the stage since Pink Floyd's reunion performance at 2005's Live 8 in London. The duo's Hopping Foundation performance helped raise £350,000. At the benefit, Gilmour and Waters-- who swapped his bass for an acoustic guitar-- were joined by keyboardists Harry Waters and Jonjo Grisdale, drummer

Andy Newmark, guitarist Chester Kamen and bassist Guy Pratt, who ironically replaced Waters in the Gilmour-led, Division Bell-era Pink Floyd.

As Rolling Stone previously reported, Waters asked Gilmour to join his 30th anniversary tour of The Wall this

Wright passed away in 2008 and Gilmour lamented, "No one can replace Richard Wright."

Even without Gilmour, Waters' The Wall tour is one of the few treks that has seemingly stayed off the summer's concert industry struggles: While artists including Rihanna and the Jonas Brothers



David Gilmour and Roger Waters on stage.

year, but his onetime bandmate declined. "David is completely uninterested," Waters said in May. "I could have probably gone for doing some more stuff, but he's not interested." Hopes for an official Pink Floyd reunion tour were mostly extinguished when keyboardist Richard

ers and tours like Lilith Fair and American Idols Live continue to cancel dates, the demand for The Wall 30th anniversary tour has led Waters to double, triple and, in some cases, quadruple the number of dates he's performing in certain markets.

Source: Rolling Stone

Vidya, Husain's new muse?



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

After Madhuri Dixit and Tabu, Bollywood actress Vidya Balan appears to be the latest muse of painter-filmmaker MF Husain. Having made "Gajagamini" and "Meenaxi: A Tale of Three Cities" with Madhuri and Tabu, Husain is now all set to direct his next movie, a comedy, with Vidya Balan in lead role.

"Gajagamini" was a classical movie while Meenaxi handled a contemporary theme. And now, what I've in mind is a comedy," the painter said.

Husain said he was also engaged in a series of paintings to mark hundred years of Indian cinema next year. The 94-year-old artist said he

also plans to set up a museum of film paintings either in Mumbai or in his home state of Kerala.

Meanwhile, Malayalam film director Shahji N Karun said he is planning a documentary on Husain.

The artist said a number of producers and directors from Bollywood had approached him with the proposal for a documentary but he accepted Shahji's offer regarding it as an "honour."

Husain, who has been in self-imposed exile abroad for some years now, recently accepted the citizenship of Qatar. End scene of the proposed film will be shot when Vidya Balan goes to London in September, Husain told a Malayalam magazine.

