

WHAT'S ON

**Nazrul Birth Anniversary**  
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: Auditorium, Music and Dance Centre, Shilpakala  
Date: May 25-26

**Nazrul Birth Anniversary**  
Organiser: Nazrul Institute  
Venue: Auditorium, Nazrul Institute  
Date: May 27  
Time: 5pm

**Dhaka Int'l Theatre Fest**  
Organiser: ITI Bangladesh centre  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 21-30

**19th National Art Exhibition**  
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 28-June 17

**Solo Sarod Recital**  
Artist: Abhik Lahri  
Organiser: IGCC, High Commission of India, Dhaka.  
Venue: Music and Dance Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Ishan Baibhab  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhamondi  
Date: May 23-29  
Time: 12p-9pm

**Gano Sangeet Festival**  
Organiser: Gano Sangeet Shamomay Parshad  
Venue: Auditorium, Shichu Academy  
Date: May 24-26

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Monirul Islam  
Venue: Gallery Chitra, Dhamondi  
Date: May 27-June 15  
Time: 10am-8pm

# 1st Dhaka Int'l Theatre Fest Gains Momentum

JAMIL MAHMUD

The 1st Dhaka International Theatre Festival has generated interest among theatre activists and enthusiasts. Starting from May 21, the 10-day festival is taking place at the three theatre venues of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. ITI Bangladesh Centre has arranged the festival. Over the last couple of days, troupes from Bangladesh and overseas have staged plays that were well appreciated by the audience.

Asian PEF and FM Theatre Power, Hong Kong staged a conceptual play, "8 times 8", at the Experimental Theatre Hall on May 23. The play, a narrative of an individual's search for identity, was written by Banky Yeung. The play was directed collectively by the members of the troupe.

"8 times 8" depicts the life experience of a symbolic character named Promise. Promise is an individual of Chinese ancestry, who was brought up in Hong Kong. After learning about Che Guevara, while visiting South American countries, Promise realises that being a Chinese means taking a stand against oppression. Returning to Hong Kong, Promise gets involved with social activities for the betterment of her society.

Augustine Mok Chiu Yu, Eliza Yu and



Scenes from "Janomanko" (top) and "8 times 8". PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Eric Ng, among others, performed in the play.

"I'm familiar with this troupe's work. They always try to focus on international issues. This production boasts a great concept and design," said veteran theatre personality Mamunur Rashid about the troupe and their play.

Harold Pinter's one-act play "The Dumb Waiter" was staged on May 24 at the National Theatre Hall. Department

of Theatre, Dhaka University staged the play. Abdul Munim Tarafdar directed the play, translated by Khairul Alam Sabuk.

"The Dumb Waiter" is a thriller that follows two hit-men -- Ben and Gus -- who are waiting in a basement, ready to execute their respective assignments. In the back of the room is a waiter, who delivers occasional orders. Gus, one of the hit-men, leaves the room to get a drink and the waiter notifies him that the target

has arrived and is on his way to the room.

There is a long pause as the two hit-men stare at each other before the curtain comes down. The implication is that the men have been employed to take each other out.

Zayed Julhas and Naved Rahman played Ben and Gus respectively. On May 24, Padatik Natya Sangsad and Dhaka Drama staged their plays "Janomanko" and "Chhaya Brikkho" respectively at the Experimental and Studio Theatre Hall.

Apart from the plays, a photography exhibition is on at the lobby of the National Theatre Hall. The exhibition features over 100 photographs, collected by Babul Biswas -- covering images from the early plays to neo-theatre movement to present day productions.

Images of the early productions right next to recent plays have created a laid back, engaging ambience for both the local and foreign audiences.

Claire Devine, director of the Singaporean troupe Buds Theatre, finds Biswas' effort to be an "important package". "This exhibition is an important part of the festival, as it highlights the socio-political aspects of Bangladesh through theatre," said Devine.

The festival will continue till May 30.



# Ityadi: A Household Name

In conversation with Hanif Sanket

NAZMUS SAQUIB

Maintaining the quality of an entertaining variety show, that too for over two decades, is not a piece of cake. Hanif Sanket's popular show "Ityadi" is a rare example of this feat. "Ityadi" has been a household name for Bangladeshis both at home and abroad. Sanket's riveting persona and charismatic anchoring has made the programme hugely popular among its audience.

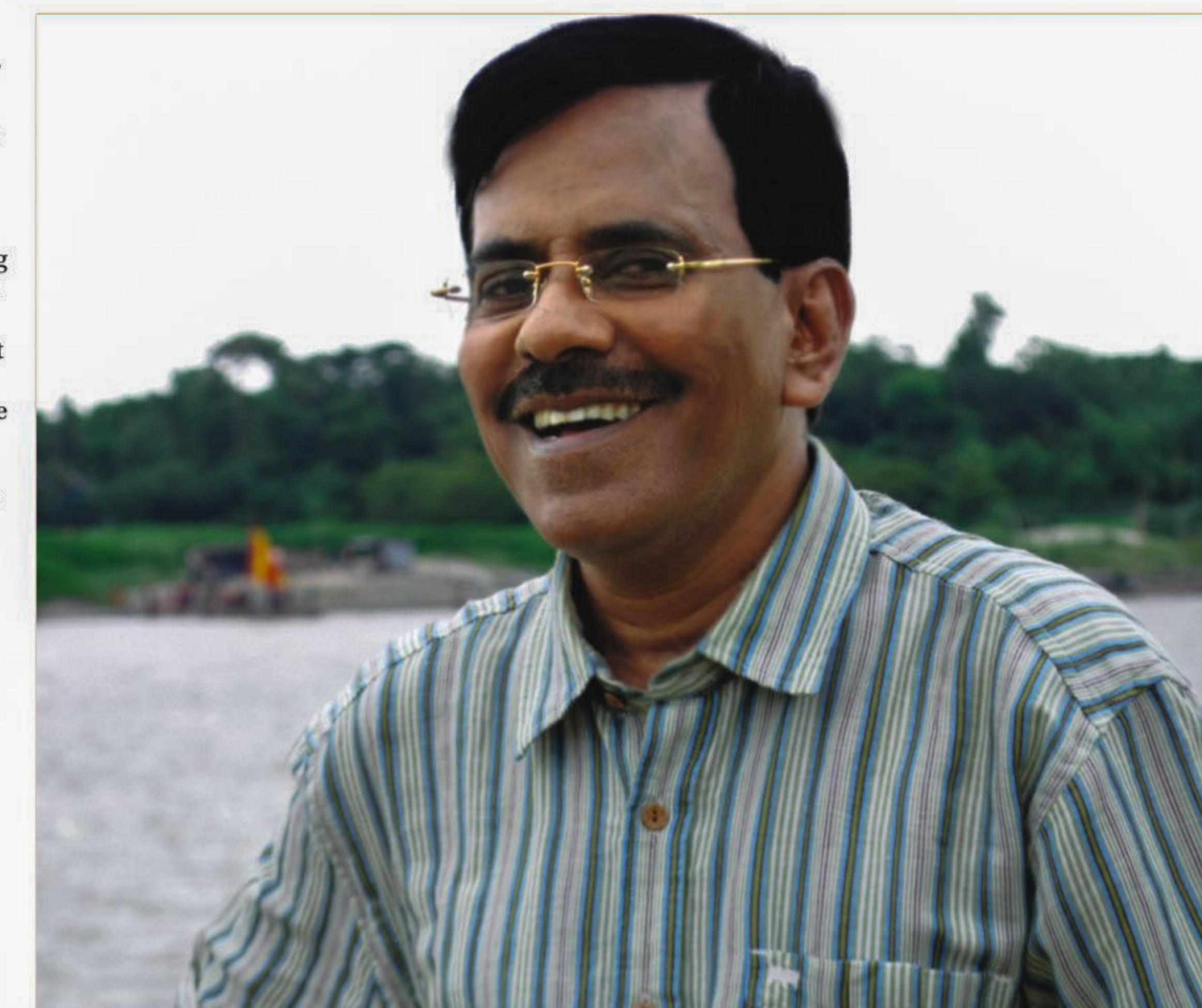
However, unlike most media personalities, Sanket does not like to talk too much on his or the show's overwhelming popularity. "Many might not be aware of the fact that some of the contents of 'Ityadi' have been enlisted on the Guinness Book of World Records. Moreover 'Ityadi' has also been declared as the most popular programme on BTv in a survey conducted by the BBC World Service Trust. Actually we do not want to highlight our success, our main concern is to entertain and generate awareness in various issues among our viewers by constantly maintaining the quality of the programmes that we produce," says the down to earth Sanket, who despite a busy schedule, was kind enough to chat with me at his own production house Fagun Audio Vision.

Sanket's sheer intellect, flamboyance of speech and humanitarian qualities have made him an idol. He never hesitates to promote talented individuals who are scattered across the country. He is never afraid to highlight our social inconsistencies and disorders which are crippling the nation. To quote Sanket, "I have been working in the television media for the past three decades and have travelled to 40 countries. I always gather experiences from wherever I can. I have a responsibility towards my audience and that's why I try to provide entertainment with a social message."

About promoting new talent or people who work for a good cause, Sanket says, "If I spot talented individuals or people who are working for the betterment of the society, I try to promote their work so that they get inspired and others also take inspiration from them."

When asked to comment on our cultural scene, Sanket starts by expressing his regret that nowadays the quantity of the programmes have increased instead of the quality. "There are some people in the media who are creating a bad impression of our culture and tradition." Hinting at a section of present day filmmakers he says, "They are distorting our mother tongue and social values. They have no right to incorporate distorted Bengali accent in their productions to misguide the viewers. Some of the scenes and dialogues of their plays or films are simply vulgar which should never have been allowed, considering our cultural identity."

Sanket also takes a swipe at the so-called musicians. "Some of the young musicians and singers are producing quality music but apart from them many of the contemporary composers and singers are



Hanif Sanket PHOTO COURTESY: FAGUN AUDIO VISION

Hanif Sanket

failing to strike a definite chord with the listeners. They depend too much on instruments and synthesizers to modify their natural voices." Sanket is also concerned about the rising trend of "celebrity talk shows", aired on a daily basis on most of the satellite TV channels. "The channel authorities should promote the making of quality programmes which can educate and entertain the viewers. They should encourage the producers and directors to make thought provoking programmes instead of producing the so-called celebrity talk shows which are simply wasting the precious time of the viewers as they get bored of listening to the same lines delivered by the same celebrities over and over again," he says.

In terms of creativity and innovation it can safely be said that "Ityadi" is leading from the front. Sanket and the whole team of "Ityadi" work round the clock for the betterment of each segment of the programme. The Bangladeshi audience has seen many innovations through "Ityadi". Sanket informs us that "Ityadi" pioneered the concept of outdoor shooting for variety shows. At that time, taking a variety show outside the auditorium was unthinkable but Sanket undertook this challenging task despite all the limitations. "Ityadi" also introduced interviews where international icons like Shah Rukh

Khan, Wasim Akram and Sourav Ganguly turned up.

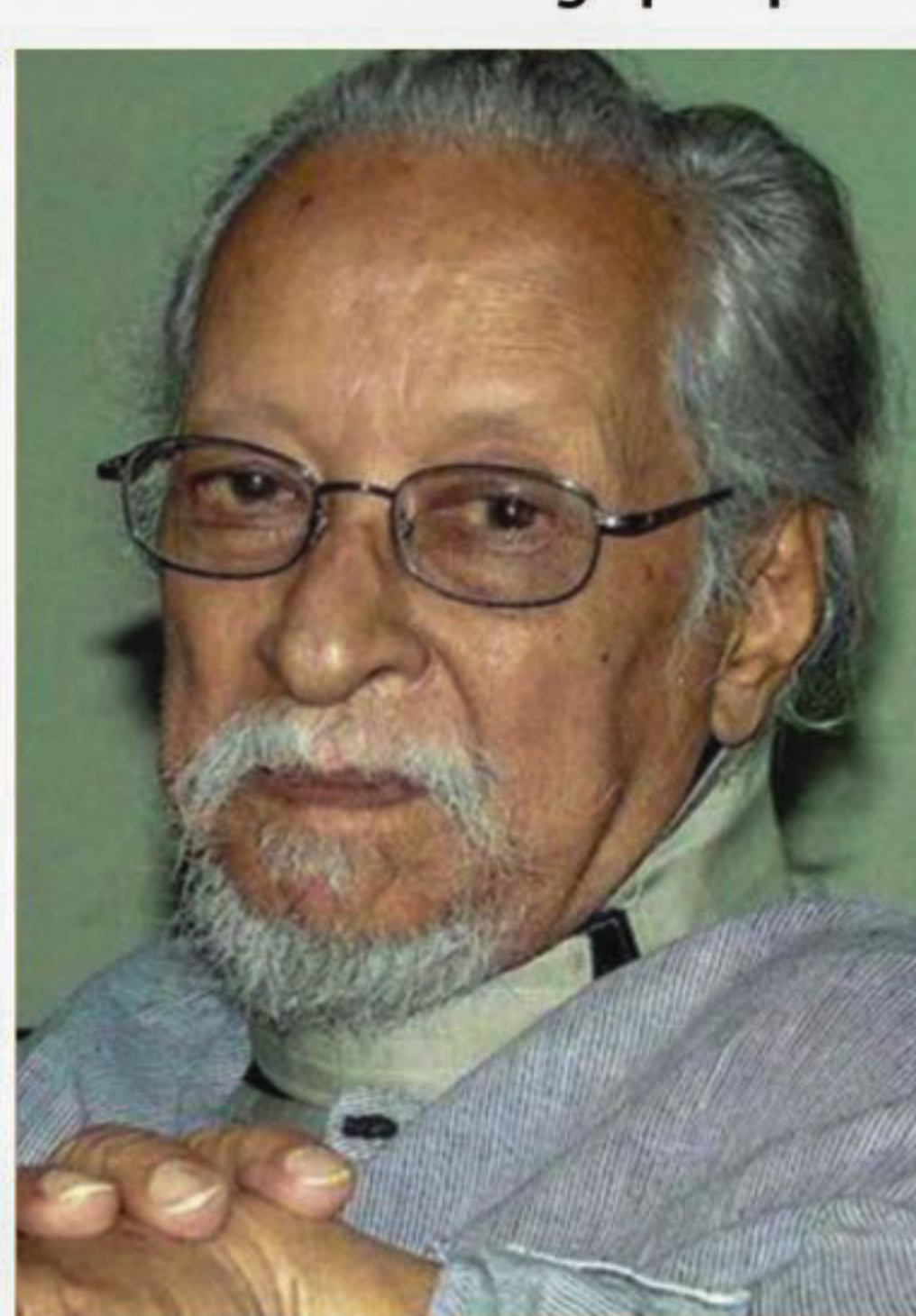
When it comes to innovation and creativity, Sanket believes it is a continuous process. So what is his advice for young directors and producers? Sanket responds, "Earning money should not be the only goal of a producer. If his/her production is good, then money will automatically come. But if the programmes are being made without any commitment towards the masses, just for the sake of making money, then we simply can't expect a turnaround." "Ityadi" only counts the love and blessings of our audience as this has been our source of inspiration. We want to pay back the honour the audiences have bestowed upon us by maintaining the quality of our programmes in the days forward," says the grateful Sanket.

Sanket says he envisions an enlightened Bangladesh where all the people would be educated and conscious of their social responsibilities. Perhaps that's what stirred him to make "Ityadi" when he started its journey 23 years ago. Twenty-three years on and it is still going strong by not side-tracking with its commitment to viewers. Perhaps the sky is the only limit for Sanket and his brainchild "Ityadi".

The writer is a freelance contributor.

# Harbinger of New Wave Cinema

Chidananda Dasgupta passes away



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

ing of legendary Russian director Sergei Eisenstein's classic film "Battleship Potemkin". The organisation was the harbinger of new wave cinema in the country, playing an important role in making world cinema accessible to Indian viewers.

Dasgupta played a leading role in setting up the Federation of Film Societies of India, which also contributed to enhancing cinematic sense among budding directors, actors and filmmakers. Although he donned many roles -- of a lecturer, adman and writer, it was as a film critic that Chidananda Dasgupta is best known, as he was one of those who made a niche as a serious commentator on cinema. He wrote over 2,000 articles on cinema in several periodicals and magazines and in 1980 authored "The Cinema of Satyajit Ray", regarded as one of the most authentic research works on the master director. Among his other books are "Talking about Films" and "Unpopular Cinema". The hallmark of his analysis of films was that they were scholarly and yet easily understood by even lay readers.

Dasgupta directed seven films: "The Stuff of Steel" (1969); "The Dance of Shiva" (1968); "Portrait of a City" (1961); "Amodini" (1994), which featured his daughter Aparna Sen and granddaughter Konkona; "Zaroorat Ki Purti" (1979); "Rakhto" (1973) and "Bilet Pherat" (1972). He was given the lifetime achievement award at the Osian Film Festival in Delhi 2004.

Dasgupta's writings in English and Bengali were confined to not just cinema but extended to literature. Related to poet Jibanananda Das, Chidananda Dasgupta had translated several of the former's poems. Paying tributes to Dasgupta, ace director Mrinal Sen said, "Chidananda Dasgupta had a key role in the film society movement. We would always find him getting hold of films and organising their screenings."

# Dr. Rafiqul Islam and Mustafa Zaman Abbasi honoured at Channel i's 'Nazrul Mela'



Dr. Rafiqul Islam (3rd from left) and Mustafa Zaman Abbasi (next to him) at 'Nazrul Mela'.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the 112th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Channel i held a daylong 'Nazrul Mela' yesterday at its Tejgaon office. The channel has been organising the mela (fair) since 2006. Mobile phone operator Robi was the sponsor of the event.

At this year's 'Nazrul Mela', the organisers honoured Nazrul exponent Dr. Rafiqul Islam and singer-researcher Mustafa Zaman Abbasi with lifetime achievement awards.

Veteran Nazrul singer Sohrab Hossain; Nazrul exponent Sudhin Das; seasoned singer Ferdausi Rahman; managing director, Channel i and Impress Telefilm Ltd. Faridur Reza Sagar and CCO of Robi, Bidyut Kumar Basu, conferred the awards on Islam and Abbasi.

# Five-day Theatre Workshop in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A five-day theatre workshop for young artistes concluded at Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy auditorium on May 25. A total of 20 young theatre activists from Mymensingh, Kishoreganj and Faridpur participated in the workshop.

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) organised the workshop with the assistance of the local Shilpakala Academy. Samiun Jahan from Dhaka was the trainer at the workshop.

Masudul Islam Masum, a participant at the workshop, said, "Recently we attended a 15-day workshop organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Mymensingh which has helped us much to learn more about this art form. This workshop is a follow up for us."

Samia Tanjim Ananya, another participant, said that BGTF

# Bob Dylan at 70: What makes him a living legend?



There's a whole lot about Bob Dylan to celebrate on his 70th birthday. Some is eulogistic, some salacious and some critical.

What does the man himself make of it all? As a young artist, did he realise that once you publish or perform your work it is no longer your own? That it is the public who gets to decide not only the merits of your efforts, but what your work means.

And the public decided in 1960s that Bob Dylan's work meant he was more than a singer-songwriter, that he was something nearing a prophet: a man of uncommon wisdom and insight. Society needs heroes and leaders and had chosen Bob for the job.

Which makes being a singer-songwriter a lot harder. Every song, every utterance; every decision is judged in an altogether different light.

He has a clear and distinct voice -- very direct and rhythmic. Read his memoir Chronicles and hear him talk just to you.

The biographic documentary "No Direction Home" consists of little more than a headshot of Dylan speaking and some archive footage but it is compelling.

Perhaps it is because Bob Dylan is able to create an illusion of intimacy in a way few others can. Add to that his remarkable charisma, a slight air of vulnerability and an inclination to stick it to "the Man" and you have an icon of the age who has achieved the unusual status of becoming a living legend.

Source: BBC

The Daily Star logo and Standard Chartered logo.

Have you sent your film, photographs & lyrics entry for the Celebrating Life Competition?

This year's theme  
**Celebrate the Gifts of Nature and the Rivers of Bangladesh**

Deadline for submissions  
**June 30, 2011**

For more details, log onto  
[www.celebratinglifebd.com](http://www.celebratinglifebd.com)

Partners: logos of various organizations.

BTv	10:05 Quiz Quiz	06:30 Sanskriti - Sharadesh
	12:35 Shukhi Paribar	07:45 Style and Fashion
	03:05 Bangla Feature Film	10:30 Dosh E Galpo
	07:00 Rupali Porda	11:55 Drama: Tumi Je Amar
	08:35 Ontorey Ontorey	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>
	09:00 Drama	09:05 Shudhui Gaan
		11:05 Shokal Belar Roddur
		02:20 Cinebit Shadkalo
		06:05 Shyamol Bangla
		09:05 Media Shikha
		11:25 Talk of the Week
		<b>Diganta TV</b>
		09:05 Shorol Poth
		01:30 Desh Jaganta
		05:30 Diganta Onushandhan
		08:30 Jibon Japon
		09:25 Pothey Prantorey
		11:05 Diganta Music Hour (Live)
		<b>Z Studio</b>
		01:30 The Firm
		05:50 Breakfast at Tiffany's

**Ek Mela Dui**  
On ATN BANGLA at 11:00pm  
Single Episode TV  
Cast: Tazin Ahmed, Humaira Himu

**Peter Pan**  
On Star Movies at 10:20pm  
Genre: Adventure/Family  
Cast: Jeremy Sumpter, Jason Isaacs

**Tomar Jonno Amar E Gaan**  
On Rtv at 11:30pm  
Musical Programme  
Singer: Dolly Shayantoni, Polly Shayantoni

07:50 Khude Gaanraj	07:20 Clan of the White Lotus
09:35 Shera-der Mahajuddha	09:30 Abandon
rtv	11:45 Failure to Launch
10:05 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan	<b>HBO</b>
	09:45 Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves
11:00 Apnar Jiggasha	02:45 Jackie Chan's Who Am I?
01:05 Shaokta Prasthan	05:15 Fletch Lives
06:10 Janar Akhoy Bolur Akhoy	07:15 Imagine That
06:10 Shubho Shondhya	09:30 The Hangover
11:30 Grand Music	11:15 Journey to the Center of the Earth
Rtv	<b>Star Movies</b>
12:35 Tauheed-e-ur Marshid Amzar	11:15 Remember Me
01:10 Bangla Feature Film	03:10 Reign of Fire
05:00 Protidinier Gaan	04:55 Blown Away
05:30 Ananda Dhara	07:30 Horsemen
08:20 Cookery Show	08:35 Love You, Beth Cooper
11:30 Tomar Jonno Amar E Gaan	10:20 Peter Pan
ETV	<b>Discovery Channel</b>
11:30 Ekushey-er Business	02:30 Destroyed in Seconds
04:30 The Aim	07:30 Anatomical Travelogues
05:25 Shanskrit Shomachar	09:30 Man vs. Wild
07:50 Paddokuri	11:30 Air crash Confidential
09:30 Ekushey-er Chokh	<b>Star World</b>
10:10 Drama: Phuckha Bilash	10:30 How I Met Your Mother
Desh TV	03:30 The Good Guys
03:30 Karl Marx	09:00 The Simpson's
04:30 Durpath	10:30 Dexter

**DRAMA SERIAL**

ATN Bangla	09:45pm Shobuj Nokkhotto
08:00pm Not Out	Rtv
08:40pm Ognoroth	06:00pm Mohalar Bhai
09:20pm Hazi-er Rektia Kotha	09:00pm Othobur
09:50pm Boley	09:50pm Neel Jotanyo Kala Saap
<b>CHANNEL i</b>	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>
05:30pm Shamma Chahary	08:15pm Dreytarar
rtv	09:45pm Gulshan Avenue
08:15pm Rumali	Desh TV

**NEWS BULLETIN**

BTv	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm
	Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels)		News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm, News (English) at 6:00pm Rtv
	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am		News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am		News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am		News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:30 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm

**TALK SHOW**

BTv	10:25pm Ghure Duronar Bangladesh	09:20pm Bobobahulo
		12:10am Ei Shomoy
ATN BANGLA	12:30am Lead News	Rtv
	01:00am Vision 2020	10:40am Tankalip
		07:40pm Our Democracy
<b>CHANNEL i</b>	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	
09:45am Triso Matra	10:10am Front Line	
12:30pm Tarika Kothon	ETV	