



# Veteran composer Ajit Roy passes away

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Veteran music director, artiste and composer Ajit Roy, passed away on September 4 at Birdem Hospital at 1:00pm. He had been suffering from cancer and recently developed pneumonia. He was 73.

Born in 1938, Ajit was inspired by the spirit of the Language Movement and took to singing in 1952. After his matriculation, in 1963 he began to perform on radio and TV. Ajit Roy has been a passionate singer since 1963. He has composed several timeless patriotic songs including "Ekti Bangladesh tumi jagroto janatar", "Apomaney tumi shedin joley uttechhiley shedin barnomala", "Banglar mukh ami dekiachhi", "Hey bango bhandarey tabo" and more which went on to become hugely popular.

Renowned singer Rathindranath Roy said he knew Ajit Roy since the 60s. "I was then a student of Nilphamari High School while Ajit lived in Rangpur. In his early life, Ajit Roy played tabla. But as his mother would sing, he had to come to singing. In April, 1971 when liberation war was on, we went to Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra through Jessore to embolden the morale of freedom loving people. We would sing together many songs including "O Amar Desh-er Mati", "Himalaye Thekay Sundarban Hothath Bangladesh." Ajit composed tunes of many songs during that time. He also directed music. We would also sing together during mass upsurge of 1969, Tagore and Nazrul birth anniversary and in many other programmes. Ajit Roy was a great man. New generation singers might compose many patriotic songs, but no one can take the place of



Ajit Roy. He was a true patriot and a great musician. I pray for peace to the Almighty for his departed soul," said Rathindranath.

In the mid-60s Ajit used to compose a new song on the occasion of the Language Movement Day every year and present that particular song on the auspicious day. It was Ajit, who sang Bidrohi by Rebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, composed by Altaf Mahmud on one such occasion.

Ajit joined Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra (SBBK) in 1971 that inspired the nation to fight the Pakistani army. Ajit rendered "Amar Sonar Bangla" and "Jago Onashono Bondi" and composed many timeless songs on SBBK. He composed the first song announcing the victory of Bangladesh: "Shwadhini Shwadhini Dikhey Dikhey AJ".

In 1972 he joined Bangladesh Betar

(radio) as a music director, and retired in 1996. He is also the founder of a musical organisation, Abhduoy Sangeet Academy.

Renowned singer Subir Nandi said: "I have been introduced with Ajit Roy since November, 1974. From then on, I regularly met him at Radio on a monthly basis. He was a big hearted heart. We are the disciples of the same guru Swami Bhuteshananda Maharaj. During liberation war, his contribution as a Shabdo Shainik at Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra was immense. Not only Rabindra Sangeet, he popularised and promoted Ganosangeet, Adhunik songs and many more. He was a committed personality who never hankered after money. His patriotic zeal is incomparable. Wherever he performed on stage, he would wrap up with the rendition of national anthem. I have

never seen him getting angry on anyone. He has a great contribution in making singers. In a word, we lost our guide."

Tagore singer Tapan Mahmud said that he was introduced to Ajit in 1968. He remembers Ajit as an energetic tabla player and a committed activist. Tapan was lost for words to express his grief at the passing of Ajit.

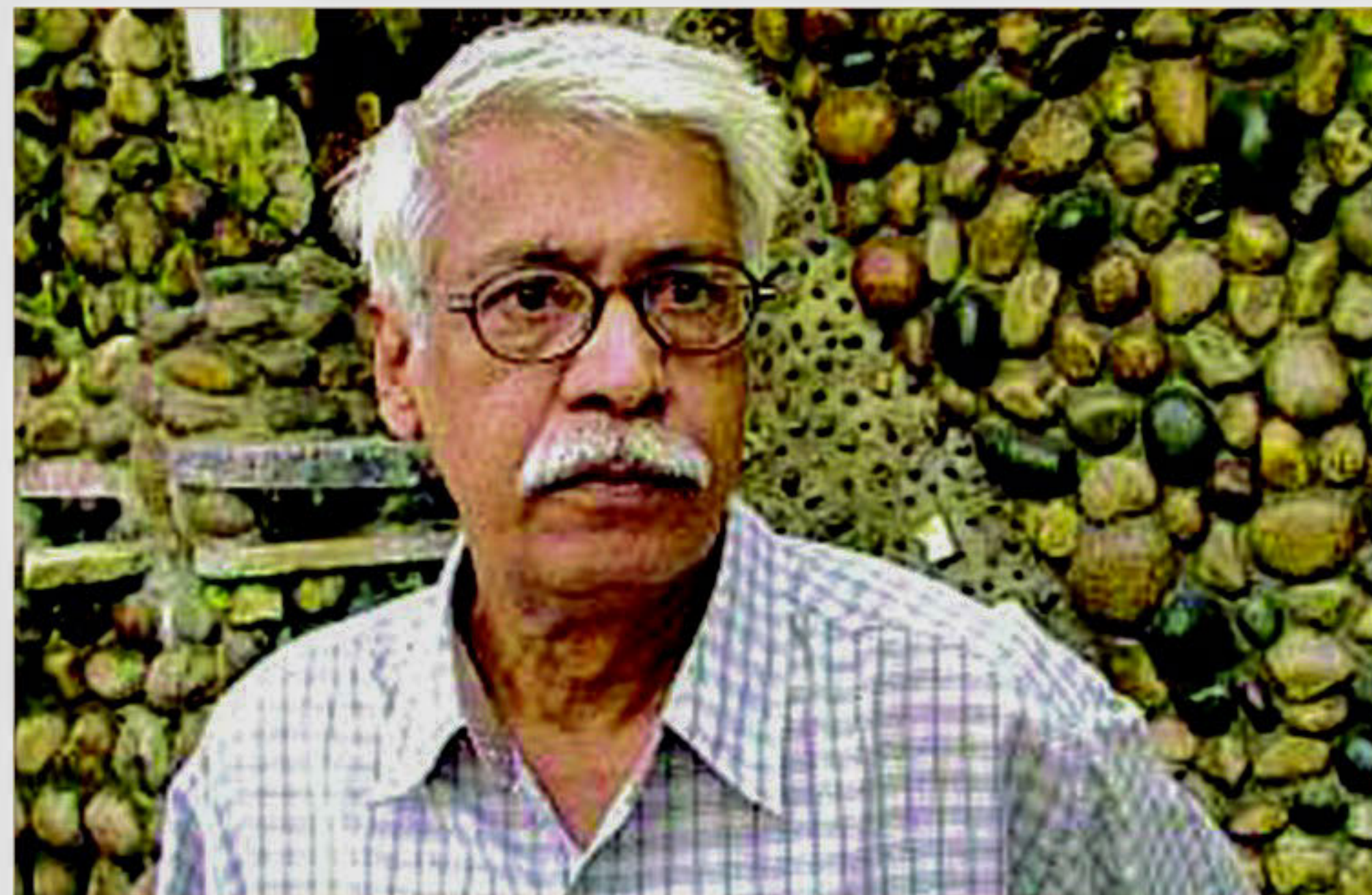
Noted adhunik and playback singer Rafiqul Alam also shared his memory of Ajit: "Many of our greatest patriotic songs were assigned to scholarly books and initiated circles before Ajit Roy popularised them in the 50s." He added, "Songs like 'Ora Amar Mukher Bhasha Kaira Nitey Chay', 'Karar Oi Louho Kopat', and even our national anthem 'Amar Shonar Bangla' were introduced to the masses in different parts of the country by Ajit and his comrades. Rafiqul Alam knew and had almost been an aficionado of Ajit Roy since his childhood. "It's hard for me say a few words about Ajit Roy. He was an activist, an organiser and an artiste with great commitment," he said.

Ajit has several awards to his credit: Swadhinota Padak, the highest award of the country in 2000, Gunijan Padak from Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad, Sraddhanjalipatro from Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Shangshtha, Shabdoshainik Padak from SBBK, Sequence Award 1988, Begum Rokeya Padak, Chittagong Youth Choir Award, Wrishijo Shilpo Goshthi Padak and Robi Rashmi Padak.

Ajit's mortal remains will be taken to the Central Shaheed Minar at 10:30am today. His fellow artistes, well-wishers and people from of all walks of life will pay tribute to the valiant singer and composer.

## IN TRIBUTE

# Zia Hyder remembered in Pabna



AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The third death anniversary of noted dramatist Professor Zia Hyder, was observed on September 2. Family members and cultural activists laid floral wreaths on his grave at Arifpur as a mark of respect.

A milad mehfil was held at Hyder's ancestral village Doharpara on Friday afternoon. Hundreds of people including cultural activists and other noted personalities of Pabna participated in the milad mehfil and shared their memories of Hyder.

"Professor Zia Hyder, was one of the leading theatre organisers of Bangladesh. He revolutionised the theatre movement of Bangladesh in the '80s. His contribution transformed and modernised theatre," asserted Mostafizur Rahman Russel, theatre artiste and secretary of Pabna Drama Circle.

"Professor Hyder's death is a great loss to our theatre," said Asraf Hossain Robi, a theatre artist and secretary of Shammillito Shangshkritik Oikko Parishad, Pabna.

"Bangla theatre, especially television plays, gained momentum through his brilliant concept

of modern drama," said Ashraf. He called on the residents of Hyder's ancestral village to keep alive his memories.

Hyder passed away on September 2, 2008. Founder President of theatre troupe, Nagorik Natyasampadaya, Hyder made a remarkable contribution to the neo-theatre movement in Bangladesh shortly after the country's independence. Nagorik Natyasampadaya was formed under his initiative in 1968. He was the troupe's president until September 1982.

Hyder is also renowned for his books on theatre such as "Theatre-er Katha" (a series on the history of world theatre), "Stanislavski-er Abhinoy-tatwa" and "Natyakalaye Bibhinyo Ism O Epic Theatre". Most books are used as references at the theatre departments of the public universities in Bangladesh as well as Rabindra Bharati University in India. Moreover, Professor Hyder worked tirelessly to introduce theatre as an academic subject at the university level in Bangladesh.

Professor Zia Hyder was the founder professor of the Department of Drama in Chittagong University till his death. He also taught in other universities as a part-time teacher.

# Tanvir Mokammel lectures in Kolkata: Responsive audience

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Director Tanvir Mokammel's lecture on "Social Realism in Recent Bangladesh Cinema" punctuated by screening of excerpts from his feature and documentary films were "house full" events at some of Kolkata's iconic intellectual centres.

On August 26, the Department of History and the Centre for Bangladesh Studies of Rabindra Bharati University organised a speech by Mokammel. The two-hour stimulating discussion, including a question-answer session, was interspersed by excerpts from his films "Lalon", "Rabeya", "Chitra Nadir Pare", "Lalshalu",



"Swapnabhoomi" and "Bostrobalkara". The event drew an "overwhelming" response from the

university's teachers and students, Mokammel told The Daily Star from Kolkata.

On August 29 afternoon, the director delivered the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture on the same subject at the Presidency University organised by the University and the Gandhi Centre for North-Eastern Languages.

A day later, the Eisenstein Film Club and Eastern India Director's Guild in collaboration with Gorky Sadan of Kolkata organised a "Face to Face With a Director" event with Mokammel.

During the two-hour event, his films and works were discussed in the presence of a good number of Kolkata's film directors and intellectuals.



A scene from Chitra Nadir Parey.

# Eid fanfare at Lalmonirhat border

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A day long boat competition was held on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr at historical Dalailama bil at Durgapur border area under Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat on Friday. Thousands of viewers from different villages of Lalmonirhat district and neighboring Cooch Behar district in India came to Dalailama bil to enjoy the boat race. Fourteen teams from different areas in Lalmonirhat district took part in the event.

Aditmari Upazila chairman, senior vice president of district AL Sirajul Haque inaugurated the competition at a function held at Dalailama Eidgah.

Historical Dalailama bil is situated at the Durgapur border village, only 500 metres from the Indian village Doribash under Dinhatata police station in Cooch Behar district. This explains the influx of Indians during the festive season.

Indians from villages like Doribash,

Jaridharla, Gidaldah, Dinhatata, Rampur, Okrabari, Sushilnagar, Anandopur, Nagortari, Mohanpur, Gouritara, Sahebanga and Mohandanga villages of Cooch Behar district came to Dalailama bil to witness the competition.

"We don't face any obstacles from either BGB or the Border Security Force (BSF) on Eid day here at Durgapur border," said Indian Kazi Faruque Ahmed, 45, who lives in the Okrabari village of Dinhatata police station of Cooch Behar district.

Indian people Bikash Chandro Sen, 32, of Gidaldah village said that he had accompanied some of his Muslim friends to Dalailama bil to enjoy the boat race.

The president of the boat race organising committee Abdus Sattar said that people often have trouble in finding an enjoyable spot to visit on Eid day. To draw people, he added, a boat race and other events were held annually on Eid day at Dalailama bil.



AFRIDA MAHBUB

On August 26, band D.O.T staged a gig to mark the launch of their first album "Shesh", a tribute and token of remembrance of their 13-year long musical journey.

The event began with the band singing some of the tracks from their album in an acoustic setting. The venue -- Floor 6 in Dhaka -- was packed with fans and well-wishers, swaying to the tunes. The cover track "Shesh", in fact, succeeded in moving many to tears.

The musical session was followed by a brief speech by the band's vocalist Syed Saify, who mused about their voyage. He added on an emotional note that the band never wanted to commercialise their music. Their chief motivation was to donate the royalties from their album sales, above cost, to JAAGO Foundation, an organisation that works relentlessly for the welfare of underprivileged and street children.

The band was soon joined on the stage by rock legend Ayub Bachchu who said



that many talented artistes are getting wiped out by the brutal hands of music piracy. He said that the option of engaging in charity through this album would act as an incentive for music lovers to stand against piracy. He requested the audience to buy the album rather than download it

off the internet. He expressed his appreciation for D.O.T's music and distinctiveness of their compositions.

The night ended with Ayub Bachchu unveiling the album cover, the fans snapping up the CDs and queuing up for autographs from the band.

# Boat race on river Garai



HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

A boat race was held Saturday on the river Garai at village Matikata in Sreepur upazila of Maguradistrict on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Panchagram Jubo Sangha a local organisation comprising youths of five villages in the area organised the event.

The boat 'Jet-Biman' from Kuchiamora village under Magura sadar upazila won the first prize. The boat from Patra village in Rajbari district 'Mayer Ashirbad' won the second place and another boat from the same village 'Mayer Doa' came in third in the competition.

Social activist and industrialist Shahidul Islam Mithu as the chief guest

gave away the prizes to the winners while Sreepur upazila parishad chairman Mahmudul Gani Shaheen, Nakol Union Parishad (UP) chairman Shajahan Mian, former chairman of Kadirpara UP Nur Alam Sabuj were present as special guests at the event. Mahbubur Rahman Khan president of the Panchagram Jubo Sangha presided over the prize distribution ceremony.

# Sarika: A busy run up to Eid

A CORRESPONDENT

Sarika was one of the busiest actors prior to the Eid, as nearly 30 plays and telefilms featuring her were scheduled to air on different TV channels throughout the festival.

Some of Sarika's works aired this Eid are "Gendhu Chora Emni BS", "Jhagrabari", "Aakash Jora Megh", "Bondhuta", "Ami Hoito Manush Noi", "Premer Goppo", "Love Contest", "Ami Nayok Hobo", "Premer Naam Bedona" and "Dhora". The plays and telefilms have been directed by Chayanika Chowdhury, Animesh Aich, Kaisar Ahmed, Saif Chandra, Himel Ashraf and Ashrafi Mithu.

Sarika has acted opposite Mahfuz Ahmed, Mosharraf Karim, Mir Sabbir, Shahriar Nazim Joy, Azizul Hakim, Arefin Shuvo and Niloy.

Referring to the character she played in "Gendhu Chora Emni BS", Sarika said, "I played the daughter of a village chairman. Aduri is the name of the character. I had a great time during the shooting of the play."

Apart from acting in the plays and tele-films, Sarika has also hosted a couple of Eid-special entertainment shows. The shows "Rong Berong" and "Tarader Gaan" were aired on BTV. Model and actor Nirab is the co-host of both shows.



Rtv	02:15	Bangla Feature Film Tele-film: Ami Nayok Hobo	02:30	Music of Fun Tele-film: Moyer Paloker Shokha
04:00	05:00	Cinema R Gaan Our Democracy	06:15	Entertainment Show Drama Serial: Premier
06:03	06:03	Drama Serial: Shurutei Golmal	07:45	Nam Bedona Drama: Chorer Bou
07:30	07:30	Drama Serial: Kotha Dilam To	08:30	Magazine Programme: Jor Kore Hashi Noy
08:40	08:40	Twinkle with the Magic Master	11:45	Shur Shomoy
09:20	09:20	Drama: Gun Powder Drama Serial: City Bus	10:40	Masked Avengers Transformers
11:25	11:25	Return Musical Concert	01:30	The Thaw Music of the Heart
12:50	12:50	CHANNEL i	05:00	Ghost Machine The Love Letter
09:45	09:45	Tritio Matra	11:45	Star Movies
10:05	10:05	Ebhong Cinemar Gaan	01:45	You Again
04:05	04:05	Phire Dekha Shera Gaan	11:55	Flicka 2
07:50	07:50	Drama: Nishithar	01:45	

abc radio FM 89.2	12:00	My Time
09:00	09:00	No Tension
12:00	12:00	Dhaka Calling
03:00	03:00	Night Rider
05:00	05:00	Back to Back music
07:00	07:00	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
09:00	09:00	Good Morning Dhaka
11:00	11:00	Today's Adda
12:00	12:00	U Turn
13:00	13:00	Today's Hit
14:00	14:00	Radio Forit
15:00	15:00	Morning Express
16:00	16:00	Raat Shor Gaan

Obak Tarar Phul  
On Banglavisat at  
01:30pm  
Musical Show and  
Discussion  
Singers: Fahmida  
Khatun, Bangla  
Majumdar, Elita  
Karim, Arfin Rumi

Jor Kore Hashi  
Noy  
On Soishakhi TV at  
10:40pm  
Fun Magazine  
Host: Ahsan Kabir  
and Saju Khadem

Gun Powder  
On Rtv at 09:20pm  
Single Episode TV  
Play  
Cast: Rashed  
Mamun Opu,  
Nafiza

09:35	09:35	Chakchakhaki Drama: Thatta	05:20	05:20	Peter Pan Jerk Theory
10:05	10:05	Bangla Feature Film: Bhalobeshe Bou Banabo	07:30	07:30	Second In Command
02:35	02:35	Tele-film: Putuler Ghar, Ghar Putul	08:40	08:40	Bom To Raise Hell
05:30	05:30	Lagan Aj Gaan Shonarab	10:15	10:15	Stone Cold
06:15	06:15	Amur Kouside	11:45	11:45	Children of the Corn
08:15	08:15	Drama: Khatar Bhetar Chapter Golap Phul	10:55	10:55	The Tournament
09:35	09:35	Ananda Diner Gaan Drama Serial: Dhara	12:55	12:55	I am Sam
11:30	11:30	Drama: Ghor Bangla Feature Film: Shottor Bijoy	03:35	03:35	Cop Out
10:10	10:10	Eid Ayyon	05:45	05:45	The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
10:30	10:30	Houseful	09:30	09:30	Ninja Assassin
05:15	05:15	Hashte Mana	11:30	11:30	King Cobra
06:40	06:40	Drama Serial: Hero Drama: Bhalobasha Bhalobashi	12:30	12:30	India's Most Desirable Cops
09:40	09:40	Shonarand	02:00	02:00	Friends
11:15	11:15	Drama: Generation Pulse	08:30	08:30	Community
01:30	01:30	Obak Tarar Phul	09:00	09:00	Everybody Loves Raymond

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