

WHAT'S ON

Tagore Film Retrospective  
Organiser: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre  
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh  
Date: Sept. 23-26

Musical Soiree  
Singer: Subir Nandi  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre  
Date: Sept 24  
Time: 6:30pm

Tagore Drama "Shyama"  
By artistes of Vivekharati University  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Book Launch  
My Journey as a Witness by Shahidul Alam  
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sept 23

Theatre  
Play: Meye Makh (Premiere show)  
Troupe: Prachyanat  
Venue: Geetha Institute Auditorium, 11/10, 94/9, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sept. 24; Time: 7:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition  
Artist: David Saitot  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sept 16-23  
Time: 10am-8pm

Memorial Programme on Mishuk Munier  
Organiser: Smritimoy Fuller Road  
Venue: Welfare Association Office, Building No 93, Fuller Road RA  
Date: September 24  
Time: 5pm

Theatre  
Play: Lal Jomin  
Troupe: Siluonon Theatre  
Venue: British Council auditorium, Fuller Road  
Date: Sept. 23; Time: 7:30pm



Parveen Sultana's latest album launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation Amra Shurjomukhi hosted a musical programme featuring singer Parveen Sultana on September 21 at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum.

The event was held to mark the launch of Parveen's latest solo album "Strir Janalaye". The album contains covers of 12 classics, originally recorded by Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Geeta Dutt, Sandhya Mukhopadhyay, Pratima Bandopadhyay and Haimanti Shukla. Laser Vision has produced the album; Khayam Ahmed is the music director.

Veteran media personality Atiqul Haque Chowdhury unveiled the album as chief guest. General secretary of Liberation War Sectors Commanders' Forum, Lt. General (ret'd) Harun-ur-Rashid Bir Protik and noted singer Syed Abdul Hadi were present as special guests. Musicians Sanjib Dey and cultural activist Shafiqul Islam Selim also spoke at the event.

Parveen Sultana rendered around 25 songs -- ranging from patriotic to romantic, to songs of Nazrul and Tagore, folk, Hindi, adhunik and classics. Some of the songs she rendered were: "Jodi Amake Jantey Shadh Hoy", "Chirodin Tumi Je Amar", "Bhalobasha Chhara", "Ami Parboti Hotey Chai", "Ogo Brishti Amar" etc.



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The dearth of accomplished artistes has created a void in the acting arena -- with most newcomers seeking a shortcut to fame and stardom. In this race, some names transcend above others, such as Dolly Zohur, whose reputation is cemented in the hearts of audience and critics alike. The Daily Star (TDS) recently had a chat with the talented actress on a gamut of subjects.

TDS: You are a reputed and respected actress. How did your journey in the media begin?

Dolly Zohur: I was born and raised in the capital's Green Road area and became an active member of the Mukul Fouj troupe as a child. I became involved with cultural activities very early in my life -- going to stadiums on special days, doing children's shows on the radio, dancing and acting in school productions. Finally, acting held my attention.

My father was always supportive of my extra-curricular activities. I began acting for TV plays after I got married. My husband Zohur, who was a TV actor, helped me find a foothold in the media.

I entered the theatre world with Natya Chakra and Kothok, before joining Aranyak. I also joined Chhayanaut when I was a student at Dhaka University but couldn't be regular.

TDS: Did you become busy with television after this?

Dolly Zohur: That story is a bit different. My father didn't want me to act on TV as there was no one to escort me to the shooting spots. After I married Zohur, I found a

route to join the fleet of TV actors.

My first performance was in a one-hour drama "Manik Roton". Late Yusuf Abdullah Imam was looking for a new face who could play the role of an SSC student from a middle income family. He asked Alimuzzaman Dulu if he knew someone and Dulu bhai suggested "Zohur's wife". A couple of us went for rehearsals with Yusuf bhai, but he told everyone to leave and asked me to wait. It was like an exam. After a while he told me to return the next day at 4pm and handed me a script.

After that there were many performances, with "Shokal Shondha" being my first popular serial, followed by "Eishob Din Ratri".

TDS: Your multi-dimensional talents have allowed you to try out different mediums such as TV, film, radio and theatre. Which is your favourite?

Dolly Zohur: It was the stage that gave me much creative contentment. On the stage I got a chance to connect with the audience and get their direct reaction. Television does not allow that.

TDS: Many consider your portrayal of Shondha Rani in the Bangla Theatre production "Manush" as a landmark in your career. Do you agree?

Dolly Zohur: That character, Shondha Rani, was brilliantly written. I was working with Kothok when Bangla Theatre was casting for "Manush". But Kothok did not have any regular shows at the time. One day Mamunur Rashid came to me with Faye Zahir and said that he wanted me to play Shondha Rani in "Manush". He insisted that I do the role, saying he had me in mind when he wrote the play.

# Eventful innings

In conversation with Dolly Zohur

I asked for some time after hearing the story, but Mamun bhai kept insisting. He left the script with me and promised he would return the next day. His endless convincing finally forced me to change my mind about doing the play. Whenever I tried to wriggle out of the commitment and tell Mamun bhai to go with someone else, he told me that he wouldn't do the play without me. I received much praise for my portrayal of Shondha Rani in "Manush" -- both in the country and abroad. Another of my favourite works on stage is Manik Bandopadhyay's "Pragotihashik", where I played the wife of Bagdi.

TDS: Nilu, the role you played in "Eishob Din Ratri", became an ideal daughter-in-law/ sister-in-law to the TV audience. How do you feel about that?

Dolly Zohur: "Eishob Din Ratri" gave me recognition and audience appreciation at an unparalleled level. With the airing of each episode came a tide of praise. I remember that after only four or five episodes were aired, the serial's producer Mostafizur Rahman had to go overseas. So after recording a couple of episodes in advance, Zohur and I also left for Ajmer, India on a short vacation. As soon as we landed at the Kolkata airport, a group of people recognised me from the TV serial. A boy came up to me and asked if I was the actress from the serial. Later we went to New Market (in Kolkata), where a couple of people kept passing us and glancing. They also recognised me and wanted to be sure if I was really Dolly Zohur. "Eishob Din Ratri" was seemingly very popular in Kolkata at that time.

# Ajit Roy's contributions recalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gano Sangeet Shamonnay Parishad arranged a memorial programme in honour of the recently deceased eminent singer Ajit Roy at Liberation War Museum premises on September 20.

Vice president and general secretary of Shamilito Shangkritik Jote, Golam Kuddus and Hasan Arif respectively; Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra (SBBK) artistes Rathindranath Roy and Monoranjon Ghoshal; President of Gano Sangeet Shamonnay Parishad, Fakir Alamgir and Sreyoshi Roy, daughter of Ajit Roy, spoke at the programme. Fakir Alamgir presided over the discussion.

"We are going to publish a Sharok Grontho (memorial book) along with a DVD featuring songs of Ajit Roy in the days to come," said Fakir Alamgir in his speech.

Later, artistes from music troupes -- Bonhishikha, Ustad Momtaz Ali Khan Sangeet Academy, Wrishiz Shilpi Goshthi, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi, Abbhudoy Sangeet Academy, Kranti Shilpi Goshthi and Shobhumi Lekhok Shilpi Kendra -- performed gano sangeet at the programme.

Rafiqul Islam and Faizul Alam recited "Banglar Mukh Ami"

and "Paye Cholar Poth" respectively at the programme.

Born in 1938, Ajit Roy was inspired by the Language Movement and took to singing in 1952. After his matriculation, in 1963 he began to perform for radio and TV. He has composed several timeless patriotic songs, including "Ekti Bangladesh Tumi Jagroto Jonotar", "Opomaney Tumi Shedin Joley Uthechhiley", "Banglar Mukh Ami Dekhiachhi", "Hey Bongo Bhandarey Tabo" and more.

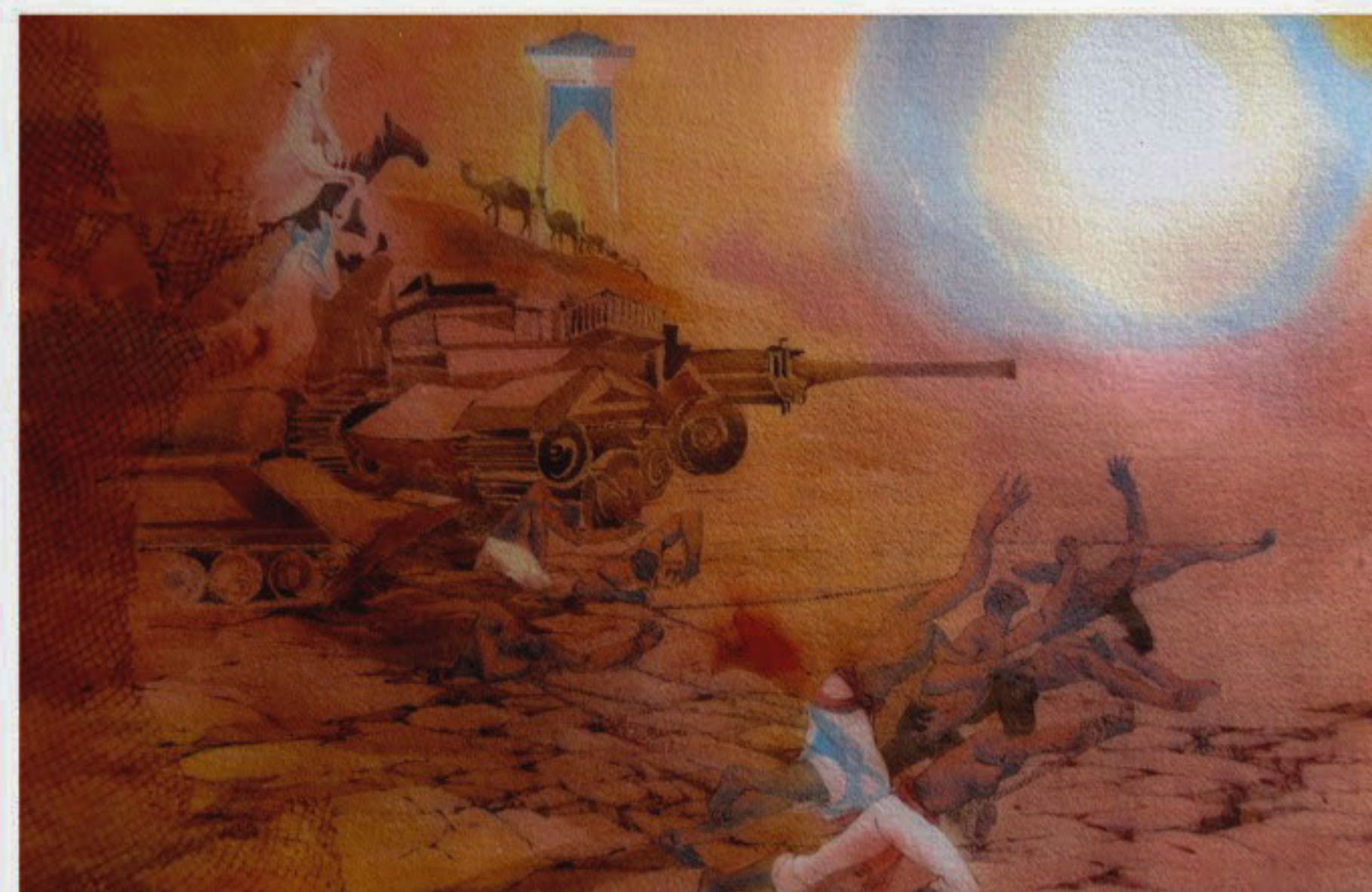
Ajit Roy joined Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra (in 1971) that inspired the nation to fight the Pakistani occupation forces.

He rendered "Amar Shonar Bangla", "Jago Onoshon Bondi" and composed several inspirational songs for SBBK. He composed the first song announcing the victory of Bangladesh: "Shadhin Shadhin Dikey Dikey Aaj".

In 1972 he joined Bangladesh Betar (radio) as a music director, and retired in 1996. He was also the founder of a musical organisation, Abbhudoy Sangeet Academy.

Roy has several awards in his credit: Shadhinota Padak, the highest award of the country (in 2000), Gunijan Padak from Rabindra Sangeet Shammilon Parishad, Sraddhanjalipatro from Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Shangshtha, Shabdoshainik Padak from SBBK, Sequence Award 1988, Begum Rokeya Padak, Chittagong Youth Choir Award, Wrishiz Shilpi Goshthi Padak and Robi Rashshi Padak.

# Painter Hasan Morshed bags Iranian award



Youth and social features by the artist.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Iran recently organised the nine-day long 18th

International Festival of Visual Arts for Young Artists. The festival began on September 9 in Gorgan, Iran. Most of the works displayed at the exhibition were paintings, sculptures and

installations. About 200 artists from 21 countries took part in the festival.

Emerging Bangladeshi artist Md. Hasan Morshed was among the participants and won the first prize for painting. He received US \$1500, a certificate and a trophy. Morshed is currently a student of MFA, Oriental Art Department, Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), University of Dhaka.

Morshed is a figurative painter. His works zoom in on myth, folklore, rituals and socio-cultural themes. He also focuses on nature and its opulence.

The artist said about his works: "I want to articulate my opinions and observations through my paintings. When visiting a new place, I try to grasp the spirit of local beauty. So, landscape is my favourite subject. I'm also trying to collect rare stories and incorporate them in my paintings."

Dr. Abdus Sattar, Professor of Oriental Art Department, FFA, University of Dhaka said about his student's artworks: "He [Morshed] is a young and enthusiastic artist. Though his education is not complete yet, he has demonstrated his deep understanding of art through his endeavours."



Artistes of Ustad Momtaz Ali Khan Sangeet Academy perform at the programme.



# Ishita to star in ROOPKOTHA

A CORRESPONDENT

TV serial "Roopkotha" is being aired on ntv. So far Naushaba has enacted the protagonist. After the 30th episode, popular actress Ishita has taken over the role.

Ishita said that she loved doing the role of a theatre activist in the serial. "Roopkotha" is about a village belle who dreams of coming to the town and work in the media. As luck favours her, she gets the opportunity to work in a serial. But for some unknown reason she is abruptly dropped from the character and is perplexed at the overall situation.

"The story has a different angle which makes it interesting," said Ishita. "I am sure the audience will like it as much," she added. "Aranya Anwar is the director of the serial; I have done quite a few quality TV plays under his direction," said the actress.



A solo flute recital by Ustad Captain (ret'd) Azizul Islam was held recently at Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society (SIFAS), Singapore, says a press release. The programme was organised by SIFAS. Islam performed Raga Sri, Darbari Kanada, Jhin Jhoti and more. He was accompanied on the tabla by Mihir Kundo and on tanpura by Saniya.

# RIP R.E.M.

Band breaks up after three decades

Some bands have a sound, some have a look, others a strange allure you can't quite explain and, in rare cases, all three.

R.E.M. were one of those bands. The long-running alternative rock band who packed it in after 31 years on Wednesday (September 21) will be remembered for a lot of things by a lot of the people who bought millions of their albums.

It's hard to put your finger on how this strange brew came to define the alternative-rock era of the mid-1980s and early 1990s. Peter Buck's iconic, chiming, Byrds-inspired guitars -- which came to be known simply as his signature "jangle", bassist Mike Mills' flawless high harmonies, original drummer Bill Berry's economic, steady-on drumming and singer Michael Stipe's cryptic ... everything.

This was a band that should have had no chance of becoming what they did. They were too odd, too hard to unpack. From day one, contemporaries like U2 had soaring rhetoric and urgent arena-reaching power that seemed

destined to conquer the world through a combination of ambition, chutzpah and titanic riffs.

But R.E.M.'s alchemy was darker, not as immediately obvious, which is what made all the difference. They literally made no sense. From their 1983 full-length debut, Murmur, through to their final, 15th album, this year's "Collapse Into Now", Stipe's lyrics were like Zen poetry: knotty, stream-of-consciousness and thought-provoking in a way 99 percent of rock music never is, or was. You couldn't sing along because half the time it was hard to hear what he was even saying. And when you did find out, the Rubik's cube just spun again as you tried to decipher what he was all about.

R.E.M. made you work for it. It didn't matter if you were inspired enough to dig into their muses, which ranged from beat poets and mad literary ravers like William S. Burroughs to punk godmother Patti Smith and the Flying Burrito Brothers, or just let their music wash over you. The end result was that



you left with more than you came in with. Even when they hit the sweet spot with hits like "Everybody Hurts", "The One I Love", "Shiny Happy People" and the multi-VMA-winning "Losing My Religion", R.E.M. challenged you in other ways, through art, envelope-pushing videos.

With few exceptions, you didn't read tabloid reports about the personal lives of the group's members, their finances or Hollywood exploits. Mostly that was because there weren't any tales to tell. The stories were all there in the grooves, in songs like "Talk About the Passion" and "World Leader Pretend".

Their inner circle was a trusted group of friends and advisers that changed little over the years, one they treated like family. They were also one of rock's most politically and socially literate groups ever, supporting everything from PETA to Rock the Vote, environmental causes and human rights.

R.E.M. showed the world, and such acolytes as Nirvana and Pavement, that you could stick to your guns and keep making the music you heard in your head even if it wasn't fashionable -- especially if it wasn't fashionable.

SOURCE: MTV

# HANDSOME RETURNS

# Sculptors make idols for Durga Puja

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Around 107 sculptors are busy making idols for Durga Puja in Jhenidah. One of them says that along with his assistant he will make 10-12 idols that will be placed at various puja mandap of the district and neighbouring districts.

Sculptor Nil Kamal Paul of Faridpur district says that his assistant and he are sculpting idols for eight mandap in Jhenidah and Jessore. This art will fetch him handsome returns as he works from the middle of Sraban (Bengali month) to Ashwin.

Puja Uddjan Committee secretary Kanak Kanti Das of Jhenidah said, 389 Puja festivals were celebrated in 2010, in comparison with 435 in six upazilas of the district this year.

SP Rezaul Karim of Jhenidah said that security measures will be taken to avoid any untoward incident.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Roma Rani Roy said, tight security measures will be taken during the festival.



A three-day (January 12-14, 2012) celebration programme, marking the centenary (January 8) of Bandura Holy Cross High School, Nababganj, Dhaka will be held at the school premises. In commemoration of the occasion, the school authority has paid homage to the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Granddaughter of the poet, Khilkhil Kazi received a crest honouring the poet. Director general of BTV, Kazi Abu Zafar Siddiqui; Principal of Notre Dame College, Father Benjamin Costa CSC; activist Syeda Hasina Mannan; cultural personality Selim Ashraf and Headmaster of the school, Brother Chandan Benedict Gomes, were present at the event.