



Poppy takes the lead

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Movie star Poppy has achieved the remarkable feat of winning the National Film Award three. Poppy made her start with a bang in "Kuli" and never looked back. Apart from working for the silver screen, Poppy has also made numerous appearances in commercials and TV dramas. The Daily Star recently caught up with the busy actress. Tell us about your three National Film Awards. Poppy: I first received the award for my work in the film "Karagar", directed by Kalam Kaiser. I represented the street urchins in the movie. I received the second award for Nargis Akhter's "Megher Koley Roud", where I played a very complex character. I won the award for the third time for Ohiduzzaman Diamond's "Gonga-jatra", where I played the role of a cleaner. When did you launch your career? Poppy: I started my career in films in 1998 with "Kuli". The film gained massive acclaim. My second film "Amar Ghor Amar Beheshi" gave me a large share of the spotlight. I also did modelling for T.V.Cs. Overall, it was a busy time for me. What is the secret behind your continuing success? Poppy: I cannot point out a single thing. However, it was never my intention to be confined to the definition of a "movie heroine". I wanted to prove my acting prowess. Unique roles always attracted me. So at one point of time, I decided to work in movies that would likely give me a permanent place in the hearts of the audiences. Maybe that is the secret. Did you take on the challenge of the different roles to win the National Awards? Poppy: It is nothing like that. It is impossible to say for which work one will be awarded. I always wanted to be involved in works that are considered good, and will continue to stay on this path. But being picky when accepting roles is limiting the number of your appearances, no? Poppy: If I wanted to, I could've flooded my schedule with work. I get plenty of movie offers. But it's not possible to work in a project that doesn't really attract me. The story and characters need to have an appeal. An actor cannot survive in the media by only being frequent in appearances. Even if one appears on screen throughout the year but fails to deliver any memorable performance, then that actor will fade away. It is better to be remembered for the small number of quality works that ensure the actor's durability. I want to pursue the latter road. What are your current plans? Poppy: I want to do a small number of films, all of which will be quality works. I would prefer literature-based projects. There are many good stories in our Bangla literature. Works that resemble existing characters in society are always challenging, like the ones I worked on in "Megher Koley Roud" and "Gonga-jatra". What is your comment on your latest release "Garments Konya"? Poppy: After a hiatus of almost a year, one of my films has been released. G Sarker directed the film "Garments Konya", where I play the role of a garments worker. I went to a theatre to watch the film. I've acted opposite Emon. The success of the film has made me more hopeful about future endeavours. After a career spanning a decade, what are your expectations from the movie industry? Poppy: I only wish that quality movies were made. Both the public and private sectors will have to step up efforts in this regard. Or else our industry cannot be saved. Bangla cinema had a glorious past. If we want to bring it back, we need honest initiatives. Maybe we will not be here forever, but Bangla cinema needs to live on with a certain standard. I also want to see our films reach the international standard.

Narail celebrates SM Sultan birth anniversary



SM Sultan

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

The birth anniversary of master artist SM Sultan was celebrated yesterday at Sultan Complex premises in Masimdia village, under Narail district with great enthusiasm. The event was jointly organised by Sultan Foundation and the district administration. On this occasion, Sultan Foundation undertook several programmes including placing wreaths on the grave of the late artist, special prayers, art competition for children and discussion. Presided over by educationist Sharif Atiar Rahman, the programme had Md. Zohirul Haque, deputy commissioner of Narail and chief guest. Among others, Advocate Subhshash Bose, administrator, Narail Zilla Parishad; Ashiqur Rahman Miku, member secretary; Ashok Kumar Shil, Principal, Bengal Sultan Art College; cultural personality Lily Begum; Enamul Kabir Tuku, secretary, Narail Press Club, attended as special guests. SM Sultan was born on August 10 in 1923 in a poor family at Masimdia village. His father, Sheikh Messer, was a mason by profession. Sultan's formal schooling started at the Narail Victoria Collegiate School in 1928 where he studied for only five years. Then he joined his father as an assistant in masonry. Being greatly influenced by his father's work in building houses, he started drawing and painting during his leisure. Sultan drew a pencil sketch of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, son of Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee (renowned Bengali scholar and thinker), at the age of 10, when Dr. Mukherjee was visiting Narail Victoria Collegiate School. This sketch impressed Dr. Mukherjee and others. Sultan wanted to go to Kolkata (then Calcutta) to study art, but his family couldn't afford that. Finally, Dhirendranath Roy, an art-loving landlord, became his patron and Sultan went to Kolkata in 1938. During his stay, Sultan came in close contact with Professor Shahed Suhrawardy, a great art critic of the time, a member of the governing body of the Calcutta Art School and brother of renowned politician Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy. Sultan enrolled in Calcutta Art School in 1941. Sultan left the art college in 1943 after completing three years of his six-year course. To him the six-year course seemed too long. However, his results in college examinations were very good, as he stood second in the first year and first in the second and third year. By his third year, Sultan realised he had little material needs and travelling attracted him more than formal education. He wanted to see the whole of India and embarked on his journey. During his travel, he made a living by drawing portraits. During this period, his first exhibition was held in Shimla, though none of these works survived, mainly due to Sultan's own indifference towards preserving his work. After living and working in Kashmir for a while, Sultan returned to Narail in the wake of the Partition (1947) of India. In 1950, Sultan went to USA - exhibiting his work in New York, Washington, Chicago, and Boston. He later held exhibition in London, UK. In 1951, he left for Karachi, then West Pakistan. There, he taught art at the Parsee School for two years. In 1953 he returned to Narail. Here, he built a school for children, and a menagerie. He lived in a house full of cats and snakes. Except for occasional visits to Dhaka (where he had his first exhibition in 1976) he lived in the isolation of his house. A lifelong bachelor, Sultan settled down in an abandoned building in Narail overlooking the river Chitra, where he lived ever since with an adopted family and pets. Sultan would later build a mini-zoo near his home. SM Sultan was conferred with the Ekushey Padak and the Cambridge University declared him as the 'Man of Asia' in the same year, in 1984. He was honoured with Charushilpi Sangsad Sammanana in 1986 and Swadhinata Padak in 1993. SM Sultan died on October 10, 1994, at Jessoro Combined Military Hospital after suffering from a prolonged breathing illness. After his death Bangladesh government established a two-storied building named 'Sultan Sangrahshala' (Memorial Gallery), to preserve Sultan's paintings, on the location of Sultan's homestead, in 2000. Sultan tended to work heavily, all over his canvases, without living any empty space. His drawings spoke of the nature and the people of Bangladesh. His art has become the prime source of inspiration for the new generation painters. Leading a very simple life at his village home, the selfless painter was completely engrossed in paint and brush.

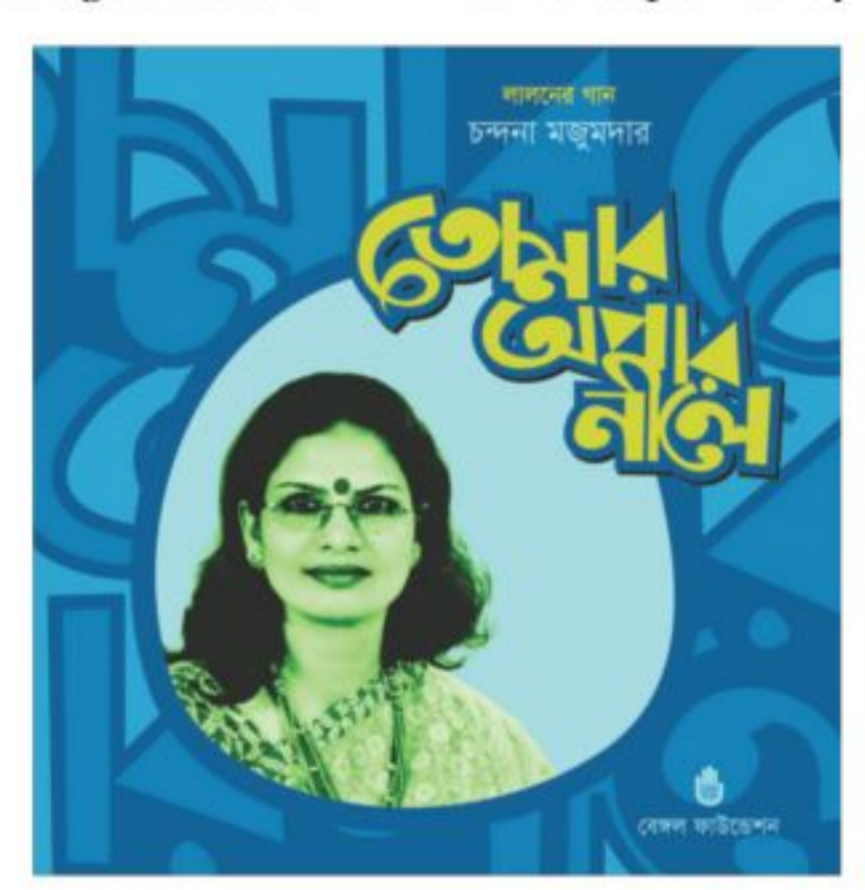


Children take part in an art competition on Sultan's birth anniversary.

Tomar Aupar Neeley: Chandana Majumdar does justice to Lalon's songs

JAMIL MAHMUD

With her high octave vocals, Chandana Majumdar has carved a niche for herself in folk music. She is blessed with a voice that can effortlessly render any sub-genre of folk songs -- be it Lalon's, Radharaman's or Bijoy Sarkar's. Her latest album "Tomar Aupar Neeley" -- featuring ten popular as well as lesser-known Lalon songs -- presents an opportunity to mull over her refinement as an artiste. On her new album, Chandana starts with a not-so-familiar number, "Mukhey Bol Rey Shodi". The song boasts a brilliant prelude, featuring dotara and the soft tone of a flute; the essence is Nabatatwa -- eulogising the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The song is a perfect opening for the album. The consummate artiste then sings two more lesser-known songs -- "Amar Jey Pothey" and "O Shey Bajjye Banshi". The latter is better known as "Shei Kala Chand Nodaye Eshechhey", and showcases musical articulation that the audience expects from her. In Chandana's voice gets the focus in the album, credit should go to veteran Indian music director Durbadal Chattopadhyay who knows what deserves the most attention. Chattopadhyay has been directing music for albums produced by Bengal Foundation over the years, and here he once again proved his ability with measured and apt use of instruments. Flute and dotara get the priority, while the director also chose to use other traditional instru-



Album cover for 'Tomar Aupar Neeley'.

Olympic closing ceremony 'includes Muse and Michael'



Muse, fronted by Matt Bellamy, say they are taking part. London 2012 officials are keen to keep secret details of Sunday's Olympic closing ceremony, refusing to confirm announcements from Muse and George Michael that they will take part. Former Wham! singer Michael announced his involvement on Twitter. Muse, who performed the official track for the Olympics, told NME magazine they would be involved. "We want to keep everything a secret, as with the opening ceremony," said a Locog spokesman. The ceremony which is likely to be watched by a capacity 80,000 crowd at the Olympic Stadium, with a global TV audience that could match the estimated 900 million who watched the opening of the Games. It will be called "A Symphony of British Music" and artistic director Kim Gavin said months ago the programme would span music from "Elgar to Adele". Michael tweeted on Tuesday: "Spending most of the next week rehearsing like crazy for the Olympic closing ceremony..." "Obviously a bit nervous not having played for nearly a year, but rehearsals sounding great so far!"

THE WEEKLY STRUM

Table with 3 columns: Song, Artist, and Lyrics. Includes songs like 'Teer Hara Ei Dheuer Sagar Pari Debo Re', 'Nai', 'Chhara Paal Aro Chhire Jay', etc.

NEW RELEASES

Ami Tomakei Dekhi Solo album by Ajit Roy Source: Bengal Foundation

Shuktara Solo album of Nazrul Sangeet by Yakub Ali Khan Source: Bengal Foundation

Qawali An album by Hyder Husyn & Brothers Source: G-series

Liza Part-1 Self-titled album by Liza Source: Agniweena

Mort Walker's beetle bailey comic strip panels 1-16

Mort Walker's beetle bailey comic strip panels 17-32

Henry comic strip panels 1-4

Henry comic strip panels 5-8

Star Fashion Eid 2012 on Today at 7:45 pm. Producer: Al Hubayer Uchshal