

Homage to Humayun Azad in Chittagong



Chanting slogans and moving around the stage, the performers create a theatre-like environment.

PHOTO: STAR

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

To pay tribute to Humayun Azad, the plucky writer who dedicated his literary career to fighting against communalism, religious bigotry and superstition, a recitation evening was held at District Shipakala Academy in the port city on Sunday.

To mark the 84th death anniversary of the lone warrior of rationalism and intellectual freedom, Proma Abritti Sanghathan, a leading cultural organisation of the port city focusing on elocution, organised the programme with the theme "Ghumiyer Parar Agye Bajuk Banshi, Uthuk Beje".

Born in 1947 at Rarhikhal of Munshiganj district, Humayun wrote poems, novels, dissertations, children's literature and reviews. Humayun, an alumnus of Dhaka University and University of Edinburgh, was awarded the Ekushey Award in 2012.

The freethinker died at Munich,

Germany on August 11, 2004. Prior to his death, Humayun was attacked brutally by religious fanatics on February 27 of the same year when he was returning home from the Bangla Academy Book Fair.

The event started with a reading from his political satire novel "Pak Sar Zamin Shadbad" by Munna. The one-hour long story depicted how the courageous writer was attacked by religious bigots for his literary works. By chanting slogans and moving around on the stage, the performers created a theatre-like environment.

The script was successfully interwoven with 26 poems, two texts of the scholar and three news items of the time when he was attacked by the fanatics. Three songs were also effectively used in the script.

At the programme, Biswajit Paul, Jerin Mili and Kankan Das rendered the poems "Ami ei matro", "Je deshe bak Swadhinata nei" and "Kakhono swapna dekhi"

respectively.

Rashed Hasan with his lucid voice recited "Shab Kichhu Noshbtader Adhikare Jabej". "Ami Shambhaboto Khub Chhoto", recited by Mohit Biswas, "Ek Odbhut Shomoye Bash Kori Amra" by Sharmistha Barua and "Biswas" by Tajul Islam are worth mentioning.

Jobayer Jewel Suman, Runa Chowdhury, ATM Saifur Rahman and Manjur Munna's recitations also received applause.

Appropriate use of light, digital slides and background music enhanced the inner messages of the recitation.

The programme ended with the group recitation "Bhalo theko phul, misti bakul bhalo theko".

Moslem Uddin Shikdar, Cultural Officer of Shilpakala Academy, and Raju designed the light of the stage and digital slides. Poritosh Das, Aslam Hossain and Mahfuz Ahmed directed the background music.

ODE TO MOTHERLAND

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Music and rhythm find their way into the secret places of the soul..." Plato

The impact of music on human psyche may never be fully comprehended. Music has the power to inspire, ability to change moods and bring about social revolution. It's everywhere in nature. Hence the idea that music may predate language is not shocking.

A culture's music reflects its every aspect. Bangladesh has an opulent musical heritage. As many scholars and exponents believe, music in this part of the world was perhaps formed as an expression of devotion. Most songs glorified some deity or mythological accounts, while some depicted lifestyles of different classes. However, all that changed in last two hundred years.

The 19th century saw a revolution in the realm of Bangla music. Thanks to a breed of immensely talented poets, composers, artists and musicians, Bangla music outshined its contemporaries in the region during what was considered its golden age.

Interestingly enough, the idea that music can spark nationalistic sentiments among masses was also realised in 19th century Bengal. These songs can be categorised as patriotic songs (glorifying the land) and people's songs or 'Gano Sangeet' (themed on struggles of the people).

Bangla patriotic songs are believed to have appeared first at the beginning of the 19th century through the compositions of Ishwar Chandra Gupta and his followers. High on nationalism, Gupta started a movement for the improvement of Bangla and also created a positive atmosphere for writers like Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay and Dinabandhu Mitra.

Bangla patriotic songs attained wide recognition during the 'Swadeshi Movement' (part of the Indian independence movement against the British Raj, encouraging use of everything local and discouraging British goods). These songs became even more popular during the 1905 movement against the partition of Bengal; usual themes were loyalty towards the land and valour of the freedom fighters and martyrs. Case in point: "Ekbar bidaye da ma ghurey ashi" on the teenage martyr Khudiram Bose.

This period in Bangla music saw the emergence of creative titans -- Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Dwijendral Roy, Rajanikanta Sen and Atulprasad Sen.

Motivated by the nationalistic senses, Dwijendral Roy composed several patriotic songs, which went on to achieve classic status. Familiar patriotic songs by Roy include "Bangla amar janani amar" and "Dhano dhanya pushpobhara amader ei boshundhora". His passion for the motherland, combined with his musical talent, is reflected in these songs. Roy, however, did not reject western musical traits. "Dhano dhanya pushpobhara" for instance is based on Raga Kedara but the line "Shey je amar jonmohumi", with three types of musical tempo, follows the English music pattern. This trend of incorporating western styles in Bangla songs was soon catching on.

Rabindranath Tagore is perhaps the only person to have written the national anthems of two countries. "Amar shonar Bangla, ami tomaye bhalobashi" gained popularity during the Swadeshi Movement. Swadeshi activists, revolutionaries and those opposing the partition

of Bengal (1905) used this song to ignite the spirit of nationalism among the masses. The song again emerged in mainstream when it was deftly used in Zahir Raihan's feature film "Jibon Thekey Ney" (1970). The March 7, 1971 address of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the then Racecourse Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan) was preceded by the song. It was also aired by Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra throughout the Liberation War.

Though Tagore was never actively involved in politics, he was not alienated from the socio-political scene either. He had his unique attitude towards nationalism. A staunch critic of the partition of Bengal, Tagore conveyed his views in the song "Banglar mati Banglar jol". Among other patriotic classics by Tagore are: "Jodi tor daak shuney keu na ashey" (one of Mahatma Gandhi's favourites), "Chitto jetha bhoysunno" and "O amar desher mati".

Rajanikanta Sen, influenced by Tagore, composed a number of patriotic songs. "Mayer deya mota kapor mathaye tuley nereg bhai" was hummed by the youth during the movement against the Raj; the nationalistic appeal of the song remains undiminished.

Atulprasad Sen, who wrote relatively few songs compared to his contemporaries, carved a niche for himself in the cultural scene dominated by Tagore. The poet and

During the Language Movement, the mass upsurge in 1969 and the Liberation War, these songs motivated political activists, freedom fighters and the masses that wanted emancipation from repression.

lyricist, originally from Dhaka, wrote a patriotic song underlining communal harmony -- "Dekh ma ebar duwar khuley, tor Hindu-Musliman dui chheley". "Modar garab moder asha a mori Bangla bhasha", also by him, made its way again among the masses during the Language Movement (1952) and the Liberation War.

The National Poet of Bangladesh, Kazi Nazrul Islam, became an icon for his poems and songs that formed a striking contrast to Tagore's poetry. Nazrul's songs were not meant to appease the non-violent followers of the anti-British movements; Nazrul was very vocal about his stance against the Raj and the colonial system put him behind bars for that. Armed with an impeccable foundation in classical music and Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit literature, inspirational songs by Nazrul were hard hitting. Among them, "Karar oi louho kapar", "Shikal porar chhal moder", "Durgam giri kantar moru", "Amra shakti amra bai", "Jai hok satyer jai hok" and more are still rendered with zeal. Nazrul did write some patriotic songs in the conventional form -- "Eki aporop roop-e ma tomar" and "O bhai khanti shonar cheye khanti amar desher mati", for instance.

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tical activists, freedom fighters and the masses that wanted emancipation from repression. Ekushey (21st) February played a key role in making Bengalis aware of their culture and heritage, and the song on "Shaheed Dibash" that has reached an iconic status is "Amar bhai-er rokhey rangano ekushey February" (originally composed by Abdul Latif and the tune was later modified by Altaf Mahmud; the latter, hugely popular version is rendered now). The nationalistic emotions sparked by 'Ekushey' ultimately led to the Liberation War.

Noted artiste Shaheen Samad remembers those turbulent days in 1971; on a truck with fellow members of Bangladesh Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Goshthi -- Lubna Mariam, Naila Zaman, Bipul Bhattacharjee, Mahmudur Rahman Benu, Debu Chowdhury and others -- going from camp to camp, singing to refugees and freedom fighters to boost their morale (featured in the documentary "Muktir Gaan", directed by Tareque Masud and Catherine Masud).

According to Shaheen, "We used to sing the Tagore song 'Oi pohoilo timir raati', Nazrul song 'Karar oi louho kapar', Mushad Ali's 'Shonen shonen bhaishob', 'Barri-cade bayonet berajal' (written by Abu Bakar Siddiqui and composed by Shadhan Sarkar), Sarwar Jahan's 'Jago jago', Sheikh Lutfar Rahman's 'Bisham doir dai' and many more.

"This was our contribution to the war. The sight of freedom fighters being moved to tears while listening to these songs is something I'll never forget."

Popular songs aired by Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the war were: "Jai Bangla", "Purbo digantey shurjo utchhehey", "Mora ekti phoolke banchabo bole judhdo kori" (rendered by Apel Mahmud), "Bicharpati ebar tomar korhey bichar ei jonota", "Shona shona bole", "Salam salam hajar salam" (sung by Abdul Jabbar) and "Ek shagor roker binmoye".

The post-Liberation War period saw a range of patriotic and people's songs. Talented lyricists and music composers introduced diverse issues in these songs; some featured in films became overnight sensation. Undervalued contribution of the youth taking part in the war and their frustrations were brilliantly articulated when Shahnaz Rahmatullah sang "Hoytoba itihashy tomader naam lekha robey na... gyanjin gunder ashorey tomader kotha keu kobey na". Listeners still hum "Shobkota janala khuley dao na" with Sabina Yasmeen.

Though patriotic songs thrived during '70s and '80s, the tradition seemed to wane in the '90s. However, the political turmoil and the current generation losing faith in the system have triggered a new tradition in patriotic and people's songs. These songs do not necessarily rave about the scenic beauty of the country but point out the bitter reality. Many agree when Hyder Husyn sings "Shadhinota ki hotel-e hotel-e grand fashion show? Swadhinota ki aunner khojey kishori promodba?" or "Keuba gorey shonar Bangla, keu swanirbor Bangladesh... goragorir neiko shesh".

As long as Bangla music remains, lyricists and poets will express their devotion to the motherland, musicians will set appealing melodies to those words and artists will breathe life into them. Here's hoping these songs would keep our spirits high and patriotism resilienta come hell or high water, as they have for centuries.

THEATRE

Kanthoshilan brings Syed Shamsul Haq's Uttar Bangsho

JAMIL MAHMUD

Kanthoshilan, a well known organisation for elocutionists, brings a stage play to the Dhaka audience. The play, Syed Shamsul Haq's "Uttar Bangsho" premiered at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on August 13. The play, directed by Golam Sarwar, depicts unfulfilled post-war dreams and searches for a way out.

Although Kanthoshilan has earned recognition as a recitation organisation, it has occasionally been producing stage plays over the years. This is the sixth such initiative by the organisation.

The over one-hour play highlights only three characters: a playwright, his daughter and a political leader who is a close friend of the playwright. As there were few performers, the sequences were extended conversations-- either between the playwright and his daughter or the playwright and the leader.

Perhaps Haq wrote the play keeping poetry largely in mind as the dialogues by the performers were significantly poetic and based on literature. As the protagonist is a playwright-author, the conversation between him and his daughter stood out as inspirational and thought provoking.

The ambience had the appearance of a middle class drawing room [either of a playwright or writer]. The playwright's only

daughter wants to know why her mother committed suicide years earlier. The playwright finds no answer.

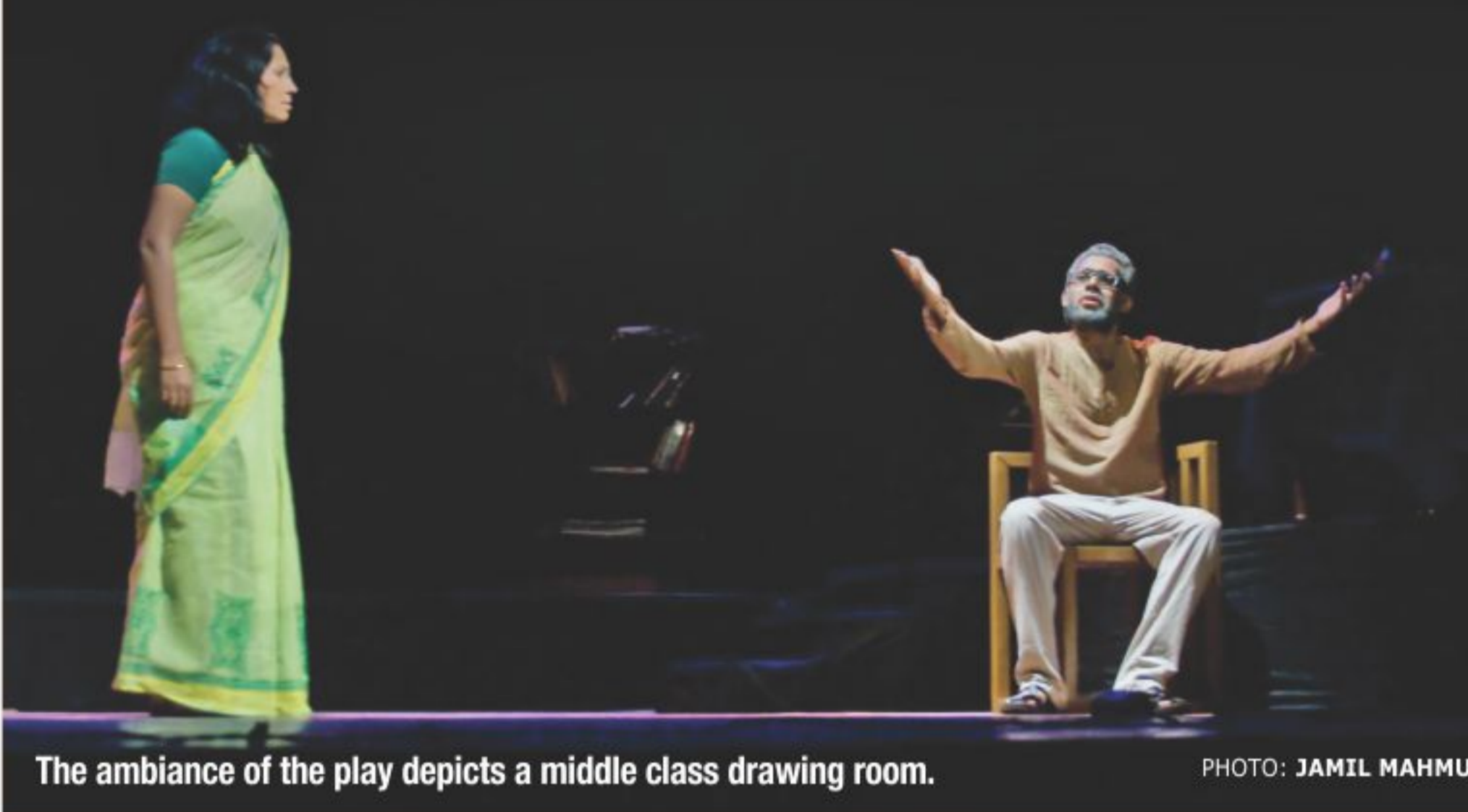
The leader requests his friend to write a play for him which will uphold the spirit of the Liberation War and help ease the odds. The frustrated playwright finds no possible way to start anew as he fears dreams have been shattered over the years and questions what else can rouse the masses.

We see a helpless individual in the playwright in both cases-- with his daughter and his friend. Hopes finally come as his daughter, a representative of 'uttar bangsho' or the post-war generation leads the way to take the struggle further.

Omar Faruque, Ira Rahman and JM Maruf Siddiqui enacted the roles of the playwright, his daughter and the leader respectively.

A group of performers also took part in a chorus throughout the play, which at times created visuals of torture and atrocities by the Pakistani Army. Masud Rana did the set designing, which more or less reflected the image of a middle class drawing room. Atiqul Islam did the light designing. Tahsinur Rahman's music highlighted selected flute recitations that complemented the soft dialogues.

Syed Shamsul Haq along with Kanthoshilan president and artist Quayyum Chowdhury enjoyed the play along with a large audience.



The ambience of the play depicts a middle class drawing room.

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

The voice of the farmers

Entertainment show Krishoker Eid Ananda on Channel i

A CORRESPONDENT

Channel i will treat its viewers to a special agro-based entertainment show "Krishoker Eid Ananda". The programme, planned, directed and hosted by Shykh Seraj, will be aired on the third day of Eid at 3:05pm.

The game show zeroes in on people from remote areas and reveals how they enjoy Eid day with rural and traditional events. This episode features the culture of highlands and lowlands, their livelihoods and struggles. The people of these areas supply the entire nation with food grains and, fish. On the other hand our opulent culture encompassing Jari, Shari, Bhatiali, Kirtan and Baul songs all come from the "Haor" and "bhati" areas. With time, the

good old days are receding into the past and traditional culture by and large is not brought into the limelight.

Featuring farmers engaged in rural sports, the show aims at providing entertainment for the farmers, whose lives are full of struggle and hardship. Apart from entertaining rural people, a core aspect of the programme is to highlight the lifestyle and struggle of people who live in remote areas of the country.

Regular segments include traditional games such as pillow fight, walking on a horizontally placed bamboo, chocolate race, catching ducks in the water bodies and many more. The programme was shot at Mohanganj, Netrokona.

"Krishoker Eid Ananda" is an endeavor to encourage farmers to keep their spirits up even as they battle daily hardships.



Featuring farmers engaged in rural sports, the show aims at providing entertainment for all.

Sridevi stages a comeback

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It's show time for Bollywood's comeback queen Sridevi both on the big screen as well as on the ramp. The 49-year-old actress not only prepares for the commercial release of her first feature film after a hiatus of 15 years but walked the ramp looking gorgeous in a heavily-embroidered white saree, designed by ace designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee, thrown in sharp contrast by black blouse. Sridevi, who brought the curtains down for the third edition of a couture week, would not have found a better platform to promote her upcoming film "English Vinglish". She was accompanied by the film's director Gauri Shinde. Sabyasachi has worked on Sridevi's costumes in the movie. A veteran actress, Sridevi said she felt like a "newcomer" returning to the big screen although never feeling the butterflies in her stomach. The film hits the screens in October this year. She said she jumped for the role as soon as she finished hearing the script of the film in which Bollywood

veteran Amitabh Bachchan has a cameo. According to the director Gauri Shinde, "Sridevi is the real hero of her debut film". Referring to her walk on the ramp watched and cheered by her husband-producer Boney Kapoor and daughter Jhanvi, the actress, who turned 49 on Monday last, praised Sabyasachi for designing her clothes for the forthcoming movie. "He is a fabulous designer and I love his clothes," Sabyasachi's collection of clothes titled "New Moon" has drawn inspiration, as the designer informed, from New York, Kolkata, Berlin, Paris and Barcelona - and consisted of Ghagra skirts, sarees, lehengas, churidar kurtas and sherwanis in shades of green, off-white, red, orange and brown.

The designer returned the compliments of the actress saying "I am so happy that Sridevi has come today and I have been her fan ever since I was a kid so this is a very special day for me. I am honoured to have designed clothes for her. My collection is inspired from the places I have visited and it is furiously fashionable," Sabyasachi said.



London 2012 was 'biggest ever US TV event'

NBC's coverage of London 2012 was the "most-watched television event in US history", the TV network has announced.

Citing Nielsen ratings figures, NBC said more than 219 million viewers watched the Games on its networks, compared to the 215 million who tuned in for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

The network broadcast some 5,535 hours of Olympic coverage on TV and online. But it drew criticism for delaying the broadcast of popular events until primetime hours. Viewers also complained of problems with online streaming and edited versions of the opening and closing ceremonies.

Sunday's closing ceremony - which was cut down by almost an hour and omitted such acts as Muse and Ray Davies - drew an audience of 31 million people.

Yet NBC enraged some viewers by leaving the cere-

mony at 23:00 local time to air a new sitcom, Animal Practice, and then half an hour of local news.

At midnight, the network returned to the ceremony to screen the eight-minute finale by The Who.

NBC was previously criticised for cutting a tribute to victims of the 7 July London bombings out of its opening ceremony coverage.

NBC paid \$1.18bn (£751.3m) for the exclusive US broadcast rights to the Games.

Meanwhile, the BBC said its coverage of the Olympics was watched by 90% of the UK's population and that 51.9 million people had watched at least 15 minutes of coverage.

BBC One controller Danny Cohen said the Games had been seen by the "largest TV audiences since the pre-digital age".

SOURCE: BBC

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker

WATCH OUT! SARGE IS IN A BAD MOOD TODAY

HOW CAN YOU TELL?

HE ORDERED HIS EGGS "GLOOMY-SLEPE DOWN"

GREGG! NOT WALKER!

Henry by Don Trachte

SPAPER

HOLD STILL TILL I REAP THE PIECE THAT STUCK TO YOUR HEAD, HENRY!

EID UPDATE

Differently-abled women craft a new future



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

As Eid inches closer, differently-abled female workers at Pratibandhi Mohila Club (club for women with disabilities) are busy meeting the huge demand for their handicrafts.

The club, at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Road at Shaheeb Quarter Park area, is run by Pratibandhi Community Center (Center for people with disabilities), Mymensingh at Kanchijuly in the town.

The products made at PMC are three pieces, fatua, baby dress, pillow, cushion and bed covers; punjabi, coin-purse, mobile purse, side bags, college bags, nakshi kantha and more. The price of the products range from Taka 150 to Taka 350.

A total of 30 disabled women work at the club. Tahmina Akhtar Minu, in-charge of PMC said that the handicrafts made by the workers are in great demand, more so during festivals.

There are also two branches of PMC at Muktagacha

and Char Kalibari in sadar upazila with twenty nine disabled women worker at the two centres. Chumki Biswas, assistant in-charge of PMC said that the products of the club go to different parts of the country, including chic shopping malls in Dhaka. The products are also sent to the USA, France, Holland, Italy, England and India on various occasions.

"We have received an order from Japan for side bags and purse and we plan to deliver the products after Eid," said Chumki. "Visitors from overseas also come to the club on different occasions and buy our handicrafts for their near and dear ones," she added.

Jesmin, a 42-year-old disabled woman said, she earns a handsome amount working at the club. "Our income increases before festivals," said Jesmin, a mother, who has been at the club for 12 years.

Afroza, 22, a girl from Nutun Bazar area of the town, works at the center as 'design helper'. "As a disabled girl I had lost the will to live, but now I feel honoured when our products are appreciated everywhere," said Munni.

ATN BANGLA	11:20 Hazar Bochorer Srestho	11:02 Bangla Feature Film
	01:05 Hriday Jurey Sheikh	06:30 Mahey Ramzan
	05:40 Islami Saral O Jawab	08:00 Drama Serial: Kobiraj
	08:00 Special Programme	09:30 Golapghar
		11:00 Special Serial: Apun Apun
CHANNEL i		11:15 Islamic Jiggasha
	11:05 Sports Time	09:05 Bangla Feature Film
	01:05 Eshing Greenmar Gaan	05:30 Akshita Ramzan
	03:05 Tele-film	10:30 Drama Serial: Apun Apun
	09:35 Drama Serial: Bosing 757	11:15 Islamic Jiggasha
ntv		11:15 Islamic Jiggasha
	11:30 Glamour World	09:05 Bangla Feature Film
	06:15 Chobto Nobir Potho	05:30 Akshita Ramzan
	07:00 Shar Shikha	10:30 Drama Serial: Apun Apun
	08:15 Siddiqui Kabir's Recipe	11:15 Islamic Jiggasha
	11:30 Apnaraj Jiggasha	09:05 Bangla Feature Film
ETV		05:30 Akshita Ramzan
	11:30 Ekushey-er Business	10:30 Drama Serial: Apun Apun
	06:20 Drama Serial: Rajadar	11:45 Sports 24
	08:20 Drama Serial: Chhokorak	
	10:10 Docu-drama: Change	

abc radio FM 89.2	10:00 Morning Express
06:00 Bhojer Janalay	12:00 No Tension
09:00 Mukhoro Jiboney	04:00 Dhaka Calling
12:00 Ram Dupury	06:00 Kishor Bazar
03:00 Doyana Bole	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
05:00 Shondha Tara	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
07:00 Shaj-er Maya	12:00 Today's Adda
09:00 Raat-er Mashey	04:00 U Turn
11:00 Gabor Shech Nei	07:00 Today's Hot Gank
Radio Footi	10:00 Raat Bhor Chan
07:30 Hello Dhaka	12:00 Hatum Pechaw

Pranati Graham
Koro
On BANGLAVISION at 09:35pm
Talk Show
Host: Kamal Lohani

Taroka Smritite
Bangabandhu O
15 August
On CHANNEL i at 09:35pm
Talk Show
Host: Ahmad Mazhar

Chirokaler
Sheikh Mujib
On Boishakhi TV at 08:35pm
Talk Show
Host: Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul

Sheet Report	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
Boishakhi TV	04:20 Jiggasha O Jawab
03:30 Alokiti Poth	09:05 Crime Fiction
05:30 Ramzan Prodidin	09:35 Bangabandhu
08:15 Tatar Ramna	11:00 Z-documentary
08:35 Chirokaler Sheikh Mujib	
11:30 Special Programme	
BANGLAVISION	
04:05 Bangla Feature Film	07:00 The Greatest Movie Ever Sold
04:05 Ramzan O Amader Jibon	08:30 The Joneses
05:15 Qur'an-er Alo	10:10 The Perfect Catch
07:00 Style File	
11:25 Music Club	
Rtv	
02:35 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows	
12:35 Bangla Feature Film	
09:50 Lady Line	05:35 Mr. Bean's Holiday
09:50 Our Democracy	07:30 Rush Hour 3
12:05 Ghar-e-Ghar-e-Utshab	09:25 Peter Pan
	11:50 Ironclad
Desh TV	
05:00 Durpath	02:30 Star World
06:20 Ramzan Prodidin	03:30 Criminal Minds
09:45 Bangabandhu Dakerey	05:30 Master Chef Australia
12:30 Total Sports	08:30 The Simpson's
Maasranga Television	11:30 Two and a Half Men
	National Geographic

DRAMA SERIAL	
CHANNEL i	Jatri
07:50pm Bayano Goli Ek Goli	Rtv
11:30pm Roshni	08:15pm Side Effect
ntv	09:50pm Boyra Paribar
09:45pm Dakshinyoner Din	Desh TV
ETV	07:45pm Shat Kabon
09:30pm Kamini	08:30pm Mr. Bean's Christmas
BANGLAVISION	Maasranga Television
08:15pm Bokulpurer	08:30pm Khonikalyay

NEWS BULLETIN	
BTV	Boishakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.	