

STAR GAZING

EID PLANS

Poet Shamsur Rahman's death anniversary today

Expression of urban alienation



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 6th death anniversary of the pre-eminent poet Shamsur Rahman. Rahman was noted as an urban poet, columnist and journalist. He emerged in the latter half of the 20th century, wrote more than 60 books of poetry and is considered a key figure in Bengali literature. Major themes in his poetry and writings include liberal humanism, human relations, romanticism, democracy, religious fundamentalism and more.

Rahman was born on October 23, 1929 at his grandfather's residence in Dhaka. He was the fourth of 13 children. He studied at Pogose High School, Dhaka College and Dhaka University. Among his famed works are "Roudro Korotite", "Biddhanta Nilima", "Niraloke Dibyarothi" and "Adiganta Nagna Padaddhani". Besides poetry, he also contributed to the realms of essays, stories, novels, translations and columns. Rabindra Bharati University and Jadavpur University of India conferred honorary D.Lit. degrees on him. His poems have been translated in many languages. Rahman was a recipient of Swadhinata Padak, Ekushey Padak, Adamjee Puroshkar, Bangla Academy Puroshkar and Jibanananda Puroshkar.

Veteran poet Mahadev Saha recalled: "Rahman was undoubtedly one of the foremost Bengali poets. I met him in the late '60s in Dhaka. I had spent a fair share of time with him at seminars, recitations, tours overseas and cultural programmes. I fondly remember our times together. In 1972, we went to Kolkata to attend 'Bharat Bangladesh Moitri Mela'. Laila Samad (noted writer) and her husband were also with us. We stayed at South Point School dormitory. The school was renowned for having some veteran writers as teachers, including Komol Kumar Majumdar and Ashish Shanyal. We stayed up the whole night, and exchanged views on various issues."

Syed Manzoorul Islam, Professor, Department of English, University of Dhaka, talked about Shamsur Rahman and his poems. "Throughout a career spanning over six decades, he wrote numerous poems and published over a 100 books. His poetry remarkably articulates urban alienation. He was deeply influenced by Jibanananda Das and Suhindranath Datta."

Noted poet Shujauddin Kaisar said, "I met him in the mid '70s. At that time he was very popular among promising writers of Dhaka University. Rahman was not light reading."

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Joya Ahsan

I plan to spend Eid in Dhaka. It is always a joyous occasion for me. I only dress up as much as needed to give *adda* a festive look. However, this Eid is very different and sorrowful for me. I lost my father this year and this will be the first Eid without him. His memories will surely flood me on Eid day. If he were alive, he would've given me his blessings on Eid. Maybe he will bless me from afar this year.

I'll spend Eid with my mother and sister. If I am invited to someone's house, I would opt for a sari. Only a little makeup will do, as I never overdo it. A variety of dishes will be cooked at our house that we all enjoy together. If I get some time to myself, I'll lie down and read a book. I'll also try to see my TV plays as well as those of others.

Zahid Hasan

I'll spend my Eid vacation both in Dhaka and Sirajganj. As every year, I'll visit my village home in Sirajganj. It's also possible that I'll offer my Eid prayers in Sirajganj; or else I'll visit there a day after Eid. I want to enjoy the few festive days. When I was young, it was fun to receive 'Salami' from my elders. Now that the role has changed, I enjoy giving 'Salami' to the young ones.

I don't usually get leisure time during Eid. When I'm in Sirajganj, I always have visitors. I spend most of my time chatting with them and enjoying scrumptious food together. Being able to relax, free from anxiety is a very



special feeling. I don't usually read books or listen to music during the Eid break. Every Eid, I have some of my TV plays that I watch with my family. I will pray with all my heart during Eid for the welfare of street children and the destitute.

Monalisa

I'm staying in Dhaka during the Eid holidays. Most of my leisure time will be spent with my mother, sister, her kids and my brother-in-law. I will deck up in new clothes and wear makeup on the occasion. Eid never feels festive until I taste my mother's special 'Payesh'. As long as I can remember, I've enjoyed the wonderful delicacy prepared by my mother. But on Eid days, somehow the taste is enhanced into something out of this world.

The *adda* sessions will begin at anytime during Eid day. My friends will drop by at our house and we will chat, eat and have a good time together. I also plan to visit some of my close ones. There will be no busy shooting schedule during the Eid break. After Eid day, I will spend most of my time watching TV. I won't miss my own dramas. I plan to watch and enjoy them with my family. I will also exchange Eid greetings with my friends and relatives. I want to have as much fun as possible during Eid.

Mahfuz Ahmed

I feel like this is the best Eid of my life. So, I plan on spending this Eid in a very content manner. I'm saying that this is the best Eid so far, as this will be the first time I will spend the occasion as a father. This is my first Eid with my daughter. So everything will be special. I plan to stay at home during the Eid vacation and spend every moment with my child.

To give more time to my daughter, I've only worked on one special drama this Eid. I feel that I've worked more than enough for a lifetime. Now is the time to pay more attention to my child.

My daughter is still an infant. She just gazes at me and smiles. I smile back and try to talk to her. I want every father to enjoy a happy Eid with their daughters.

Bonna Mirza

I will spend the Eid vacation in Dhaka with my husband. I hope to have a good time during Eid. Nowadays, the workload has increased due to the burgeoning of TV channels. Like all other artistes, I have to work in many Eid dramas. I hardly get a break until Eid arrives, allowing me the time to have a well deserved rest.

Lots of delicacies will be prepared at home during Eid. Many relatives and friends from the media will also come to visit. We will have *adda* sessions with them and enjoy the food together. Maybe we will also visit the homes of a few dear ones. We haven't decided whether we will travel somewhere during Eid. If we do decide to go on a trip, that will be an added fun for the occasion.



Mir Sabbir

This Eid, viewers will be able to enjoy Mir Sabbir's performance in nearly 25 TV plays or telefilms. The popular actor is very busy with a packed shooting schedule for Eid specials. He says that the hectic routine will continue till three days before Eid. Sabbir has worked in a new Hanif Sangket Eid special drama -- shot in Savar. The actor claims that the audience watching the drama will be in for a treat as they always are in a Hanif Sangket creation.

Sabbir will also be starring in 'Shubho Bibaho', a seven-episode mini-series directed by Zahid Hasan. Desh TV will air the play for seven consecutive days from Eid. The play has been shot in Sirajganj. Although he has visited Sirajganj for shoots on several previous occasions, Sabbir says the experience of shooting 'Shubho Bibaho' was far more fun.

Meanwhile, three Eid plays directed by Sabbir will be aired during the festival. He is both the director and actor in the plays 'Alal Dulal', 'Kuddus Mama' and 'Makeup Man'. Saying that he has taken great care in making the plays, Sabbir informed that all the dramas were shot in Dhaka.

BTV will air three more plays by the actor: 'Made in Barisal', 'First Boy' and another still untitled drama. Sabbir asserts that 'Made in Barisal' is a brilliant drama which the audience will definitely enjoy.

The other Eid dramas by the actor are 'Ashol Nokol', 'Schedule Nai', 'Nikhoj Sangbad', 'Otrishna' and 'Kinar'. Sabbir adds that he cannot recollect all the TV Eid plays he has worked in. However, he claims that his fans will not be disappointed as all of the dramas have a good storyline, characters and scripts.

Maasranga television will also air a telefilm by Sabbir, directed by Himel Ashraf and written by Anisul Haq. Sabbir claims that the telefilm is also brilliant. He further informs that he has performed in Fazlur Rahman's telefilm 'Outsider'. Overall, the number of above par TV plays had been good this year, points out Sabbir.

The star will spend Eid in Dhaka with his family. Although he wants to go outside the capital during Eid, his busy shooting schedule bars him from doing so. Reminiscing on his childhood Eid days, Sabbir says those were the real festive days. However, looking at his own child takes him back to those joyful Eids, he says. When asked about his post-Eid shooting schedule, Sabbir informs that he is set to go to Qatar at the end of August to shoot for Mahfuz Ahmed's serial 'Maago Tomar Jonnyo'.

Sajal

As every year, I only have one plan for Eid: to sleep through the day. I'm busy round the clock throughout the year and hardly have any time to rest. So during the three days of Eid, I prefer to stay indoors and enjoy a well deserved sleep. I only wake up to enjoy the variety of dishes prepared for the occasion. However, this year I also plan to read books from my favourite authors and listen to my favourite singers. I've already purchased the books and the CDs. I always wait for Eid, as it marks my true vacation.



Murtaja Baseer turns 81

A versatile genius



TAKIR HOSSAIN

Murtaja Baseer, considered one of the foremost painters of Bangladesh, has established his individual style. He is also known as a versatile genius. Throughout his illustrious career, Baseer has gradually transformed his working style into abstract realism.

Today marks the 81st birth anniversary of the painter. The artist is the son of Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah, an outstanding scholar and linguist.

Baseer was born in 1932. He joined Dacca Art College (now the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka) as a student in 1949. He is still actively exploring the diverse world of art. He has done a series of works articulating contemporary life and issues. Hope, aspiration, longing, deprivation and visions are evoked with passion in his images.

Many are perhaps not familiar with Baseer's other identities as a poet, short story writer, novelist, researcher, numismatist and filmmaker. Baseer has written novels and was acclaimed for his meticulous style and unique choice of themes. In 1954, he wrote a novel, titled 'Ultramarine'. The novel was based on the contemporary life in Kolkata and the prevailing social issues. He had published a collection of short stories called 'Kanch-er Pakhir Gaan' in 1969. He wrote two more novels -- 'Mitar Shangey Char Shanda' and 'Amitakkkhar'. He has a collection of selected works, 'Murtaja Baseer: Murto O Himurto'. He was a regular contributor to now defunct literary journals like 'Dilruba', 'Samakal' and 'Saogal'.

Baseer's first published poem was 'Parbe Na'. The poem delved deep into patriotism and socialism. It was included in 'Ora Pran Dilo', a compilation of poems on the Language Movement, which was published from Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1952.

Reading Baseer's poetry is like undergoing an emotional journey. As a poet, he is a modernist in the whole sense. His style is unquestionably unique, expressive and easily comprehensible. When readings his poems, one feels the yearnings of a lonely soul, unbound sorrow, the vacuum in a melancholic heart. Baseer's poems are voyages into fantasy.

During the Liberation War, Baseer left the country for Paris with his family. Baseer stayed in Paris till June 1973. While in Paris, he studied mosaic and etching at Beaux Arts, a recognised institute. During that period, he wrote 18 poems. Most of the poems are themed on romanticism, patriotism and individualism.

In 1973, Baseer returned to Bangladesh and joined Chittagong University as an assistant professor.

Baseer has also worked as a screenplay writer, art director and chief assistant director for the Bangla film 'Nadi O Nari' in 1964, and as an art director for the Urdu film 'Kaise Kahoon' in 1965.

In 1987, he received a fellowship from British Council to carry out research on folk and traditional art of Bangladesh. In 1988, he visited several museums in Delhi, Calcutta, Banaras and 3000 villages under nine districts of West Bengal -- under the fellowship of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). His work 'Mudra O Shilalipir Alope Banglar Habshi Sultan O Tothkalin Samaj' was published in 2004. Several articles by Baseer have been published in the Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, a prestigious publication.

'The Wings' is one of his noteworthy series, comprising of 37 paintings, articulating truth, beauty, romanticism and spirituality. The most significant part of the series is that all of the works have a deep correlation but each painting denotes its individuality. Baseer has maintained continuity in his works. Subtle forms and colours create a panoramic impact in his works. Hope, aspiration and strange visions are evoked with passion in his images. He has held several solo and group exhibitions in different parts of the world and has received a number of prestigious awards.



Eid festival at Fantasy Kingdom and Foy's Lake

A CORRESPONDENT

Concord Entertainment's Fantasy Kingdom complex in Ashulia, near Dhaka, includes Fantasy Kingdom, Water Kingdom, Heritage Park, X-treme Racing Go-kart and Motel Atlantis, and is a delight for children and adults alike.

In Chittagong, Concord entertains the public with Foy's Lake Amusement World, Sea World and Foy's Lake Resort. Keeping in mind that people would love to let their hair down this Eid, Fantasy Kingdom and Foy's Lake authorities offer special arrangements in the holiday season. Additionally, concert with dance show, DJ show and acrobat show will be arranged. The Fantasy Kingdom will be decorated with a colorful look for Eid celebrations.

This festive season take a glimpse at what Concord has to offer in Ashulia and

Chittagong:

A major attraction at Ashulia's Fantasy Kingdom complex is the Water Kingdom. This water theme park offers a number of slides, a wave pool, lazy river and facilities for smaller children. The highlight is the wave pool. Moreover there are the slide world, family pool, multi slide, lost kingdom, play zone and dancing zone.

At Motel Atlantis one can take a break from a hectic day.

Chittagong residents have access to Foy's Lake Resort, a unique getaway where one can stay while enjoying the scenic beauty of Foy's Lake. The Resort at Foy's Lake is open all year round.

Facilities include exciting rides at Adventure Land and Sea World (water park), BBQ nights, cultural programmes, boat rides on the lake, concerts and shows featuring leading artistes.

DID YOU KNOW?

"Matir Moina" (The Clay Bird; 2002)

- The movie is the first feature film by Tareque Masud which is based on his childhood experience in a madrasa in the then rural East Pakistan during the turbulent 1960s. Before the film, Masud made several documentaries including "Adam Surat" and "Mukrir Gaan".
- The film bagged the FIPRESCI Prize in the section Directors' Fortnight (outside competition) in 2002 Cannes Film Festival. The jury board selected the film for "its authentic, moving and delicate portrayal of a country struggling for its democratic rights".
- While the film was not nominated for an Oscar, it was Bangladesh's first film ever to be submitted to the Academy Awards for consideration to compete in the Best Foreign Language Film category.
- In 2002, the film also won "Best Screenplay" award in Marrakech International Film Festival, Morocco.
- In March 2011, the film was shown as part of "screening of world classics" by the New York State Writers Institute in USA.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker

Henry by Don Trachte

ATN BANGLA	09:20 Bangla Feature Film 03:10 Ama Korbo Joy 05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor 08:00 Catalaj 06:20 Documentary Programme	Desh TV	03:00 Live Musical Programme: Priyoo-er Gaan Tara Hela 05:55 Bindu Thekey Britto 09:45 Drama Call-er Gaan
CHANNEL i	12:05 Prokriti O Jibon 02:40 Taffilin Ki Jeno Hobe 04:05 Jamgad-er Khabor 09:35 Superstar 11:30 Spot Light	Maasranga Television	04:40 Square Hospital Doctor's Chamber 07:35 Art & Craft Programme: Shaili 08:00 Drama: Shudho Tomar Jomno 09:00 Film Based Game Show: Houseful 11:00 Shera Raduni
nTV	02:35 Tele-film 07:00 Romymadhuri 09:00 Comedy Show 11:30 Apar Jiggasha (Live) 12:30 Hello America	CHANNEL 9	03:45 Class Room 05:30 Aklotto Ramzan 07:45 Bhinno Shadher Shondhane
ETV	10:05 Sonamoni Shukh-e Oshukh-e 12:30 Bangla Feature Film		

abc radio FM 89.2	09:00 Mukhorjo Jibony 12:00 Darun Dupury 03:00 Duranto Boleby 05:00 Shobchakra 07:00 Shajer Maya 09:00 Raat-er Akushey 11:00 Koper Shesh Nel	Radio 101	06:00 Fourti Unlimited 07:00 Bumper to Bumper 10:00 Club Fourti 01:00 Film to Back music
RADIO FOOTBI	08:00 Adshaboi 12:00 Boler Paka	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6	06:00 Good Morning Dhaka 11:00 Flash Back 12:30 Islamic Program 02:35 Roshn Gaan 05:00 Today's World Music 10:00 Top of the Week

99, Shaheb Ali Lane
On ntv at 09:45pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Rawrak, Kazi Ujjal

London Boulevard
On Fox Movies at 10:35pm
Genre: Crime/ Drama
Cast: Colin Farrell, Keira Knightley

Scandal
On ATN Bangla at 11:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Mir Sabbir, Romana

06:20 Drama: Rojadar 10:10 Drama 11:45 Phone & Live Studio Concert	09:40 Drama 11:15 Islamic Jiggasha
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Boishakhi TV	08:20 Bangla Feature Film 03:30 Documentary: Alokito Poth 08:35 Drama 09:20 Amar Gilar Amar Gaan 11:30 Shomoy Katuk Gaan-e Gaan-e	CHANNEL 24	09:30 Modyraater Muktabak 01:05 Islamic Programme 03:05 Pas Rekehchi Joubone 09:30 Drama 12:00 Amar Joto Gaan
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BANGLAVISION	10:10 Bhalo Thakan 11:05 Amader Rangghar 01:35 Chaki Chal 07:00 Style File 11:25 Ami Ekhon Ki Korbo (Live)	Fox Movies	01:15 Killers Set Alarm 03:00 The Next Three Days 05:15 Love and other Impossible Pursuits 07:00 The Taking of Pelham
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Rtv	10:10 Doctor's Prescription (Live) 03:45 Natuner Jyoggan (Live) 05:30 Game Show: Ghar-e Bairey 07:35 R Music	CHANNEL 1	01:15 Ocean's Thirteen 03:45 Final Destination 04:45 Final Destination 2 05:40 Death Warrant 07:30 Rush Hour 09:30 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
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ATN BANGLA	09:20pm Chhayabrata 11:00pm Scandal	09:45pm 99, Shaheb Ali Lane 11:00pm Scandal
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BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm News (English) at 9am, 9pm	CHANNEL 9	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10:30pm nTV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm ETV News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
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ATN Bangla	12:30am Lead News 12:30am Ager Shongbadpato 01:00am Trio Matra	BANGLAVISION	08:15pm Harkiptey 09:45pm Gulshan Avenue
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ATN Bangla	12:00am Zero Hour 12:00am Mela Shanto 09:50pm Moneer Kotha	BANGLAVISION	10:40am Taroklap 07:45pm Mukh O Mukharota
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