

Poet Abul Hossain's 90th birthday celebration tomorrow



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 90th birth anniversary of poet Abul Hossain, the family members of the poet will organise a discussion and cultural programme tomorrow at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the city.

On August 15, the veteran poet turned 90. He is considered one of the pioneers of modern Bangla poetry.

Hossain was born at Doyara village in Khulna district in 1922. His father's name is SM Ismail Hossain. He grew up in Krihsnanagar and Calcutta (now Kolkata). He did his Honours and Masters in Economics from Calcutta Presidency College and University.

Hossain started writing poetry in the late 1930s. His first poetry book "Naboboshonto" was published in 1940. He was one of the few Muslim poets who initiated modern trends in Bangla poetry. His style and tone are distinctive. His poems focus on the Bengali culture, traditions, relationships, romanticism, patriotism, nature and the Liberation War. He has 30 books to his credit. His poetry books include "Birosh Sanglap", "Shob Boshonto", "Hawa Tomar Ki Dushshahosh" and "Duhshapno Theke Duhshapno".

Hossain's other literary works include essays on art, culture and social life; translations and autobiography. He took journalism as his first profession in Kolkata. He worked with the literary journals -- Bulbul and Nabajug.

Besides writing, Hossain served in different local and international organisations in various posts.

About the poet, Ahmed Rafiq said, "Hossain has enriched our literature since 1940 he is one of the major Bengali poets of the 1940s. He is multitalented and has written on many contemporary issues."

The poet has been honoured with many awards, including Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Award, Padabali Award, Nasiruddin Gold Medal, Mazharul Islam Kobita Puroshkar and more.

Krishoker Eid Ananda Farmers' Day Out

A CORRESPONDENT

Come Eid and an array of programmes kept viewers hooked to the small screen. However, as always, a class apart was the annual Eid TV programme, "Krishoker Eid Ananda", aired on Channel i.

It was in fact impossible to get viewers to budge from the TV as the director of the programme once again displayed his mastery over his medium.

"Krishoker Eid Ananda" has been aired on Channel i since 2007. The popularity of this year's show, however, overshoot that of preceding years.

Shykh Seraj is always animated in his presentation. He was focused and had an in-depth knowledge of the rural games and the wider subject he was presenting.

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There is an in-built mindset to make TV programmes during Eid for urbanites who are privileged and exercise power. There is a barrage of musical shows and plays featuring the best artistes to entertain city dwellers. However, as always, the partici-

pants of "Krishoker Eid Ananda" were simple rural folk who competed against each other.

Climbing greasy banana tree, pillow fight, catching ducks, grandfather-grandson sprint and more -- all these games were packed with infinite entertainment.

The programme also featured narratives based on the hard lives of the Haor community who wage a daily battle against the vagaries of nature. Poor medical facilities at local hospitals or fishermen confronted with steadily depleting fish catches, the search for pure drinking water, tales of marginalised women -- each and every aspect of life at the Haor region was featured adeptly in "Krishoker Eid Ananda".

The programme also touched down on the great creative personalities of the Haor region -- Shah Abdul Karim, Radha Raman, Ukil Munshi, Humayun Ahmed and others.



player Uzzal Sinha of Dhaka.

Roy now plays the keyboard to accompany Adhunik and folk songs. Shukumar said he has played keyboard with popular singers like Subir Nandi, Mamotaj, Fatema Tuj Zohra, Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, Farida Parveen, Monir Khan, Nolak, Rinku, Purno and Beauty.

Besides, he has travelled for extensive periods to Sharjah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi along with a team of musicians. He has also played the keyboard with famed Indian singers like Usha Uthup, Swarajit Mondol, Purna Das Baul and Lopamudra Mitra.

Shukumar said that he aspires to be a music director.

Ardhendra Banerjee, a noted music teacher of Jessore, said that Roy displays much commitment. "He has been at my music academy for five years. He is an expert keyboard player in Khulna division," says Banerjee.



"Jyotishanghita" seeks experimentation in a sphere of aesthetics.

PHOTO COURTESY: KAMALUDDIN KABIR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two experimental works -- Prachyanat's deconstructive adaptation of the Tagore classic "Raja" and Habiganj Shilpakala Academy's "Jyotishanghita" -- set the pace for the second day (August 26) of the ongoing Selim Al Deen Festival 2012 at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The plays were respectively staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall and National Theatre Hall.

Selim Al Deen Foundation and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy have arranged the festival in association with Dhaka Theatre and Bangladesh Gram Theatre.

With the use of multimedia and a not-often-seen [T-shaped] stage, Prachyanat's production "Raja...ebong Onnanyo" can only be performed in selected auditoriums.

Azad Abul Kalam's approach to the play has been much talked about. The play tries to keep the Tagorean essence intact, even after being deconstructed.

Without changing the original plot, Kalam gave "Raja" a new look and tried to portray the ubiquitous King as a metaphor set against the backdrop of the contemporary chaotic world. Use of contemporary music, dance and multimedia helps the play to connect to the present day audience.

Azad Abul Kalam was the voice of the omnipresent

King, while guest actor Afsana Mimi performed as the queen. The cast also included Tapan Majumdar, Sanjida Preeti, Rubaiya Manzur, Shatabdi Wadud and Sakhawati Hossain Rezvi.

While "Raja...ebong Onnanyo" is more subjective and focused on issues, "Jyotishanghita" seeks experimentation in a sphere of aesthetics, with a moving storyline, and through creating colourful visuals. Directed and designed by Sudip Chakraborty, the play zooms in on an indigenous freedom fighter. Ruma Modok wrote the play, keeping in mind the contribution of the indigenous communities during the Liberation War.

The story is set in the countryside and follows the eventful journey of the protagonist. Aniruddha Kumar Dhar, Ruma Modok, Iqbal Chowdhury and Sanjida Sinha, among others, performed in the play.

Today, no plays will be staged but the seminar on the newly found archaeological elements at Wari and Bateswar will be held at the Seminar Hall of the academy. Professor Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, Department of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University and Muhammad Habibullah Pathan will jointly present the keynote paper titled "Wari-Bateswar: Shekorer Shondhaney". Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, Professor Anwar Hossain, will preside over the seminar that will start at 3pm.

Mumbai-based director's anti-Obama docudrama makes a buzz



A fiercely anti-Obama docudrama directed by Mumbai-raised conservative and Christian writer Dinesh D'Souza jumped over the weekend into the top 10 in North America with an estimated \$6.2 million.

The movie, "2016 Obama's America" shot in Kenya, Indonesia and USA, is attracting large audiences with hardly any advertising in mainstream publications. It opened in just one theatre in the ultra-conservative state of Texas over three weeks ago and then expanded to 169 locations two weeks later. Now, it is in 1,091 theatres.

With the Republican political convention set to start this week, the distributor of the film, the small-time Rocky Mountain, went nationwide, reaching thousands through conservative church organisations and conservative radio talk shows.

Box office observers believe the film, which cost about \$5 million to produce, and is based on two books by D'Souza, would earn at least \$30 million, making it one of the most profitable films of the year.

It has already grossed about \$9.5 million and was the number nine film in America in a week of underperforming films, with the highest grossing weekend film "The Expendables 2" earning about \$13.5 million.

D'Souza turned to extreme conservative ideology during his college years at Dartmouth over 25 years ago. The film draws heavily from his own life, as he describes how coming to study in America from India helped to shape his political ideology.

D'Souza, who hates liberals and leftists anywhere, also points out the similarities between his upbringing and Obama's.

He based part of the film on his book "The Roots of Obama's Rage" in which he argued that Obama's father was a socialist

and Obama is working towards fulfilling his father's dreams including the downsizing of America and turning into a socialist and third world state (apparently synonymous in his view).

The book was roundly criticised by many political observers and even some conservatives for being too far fetched. It became, nevertheless, a national bestseller for over a month.

"In my new book, 'Obama's America: The Unmaking of an American Dream', I am looking at the possible scenario of Obama fulfilling his goal if he is elected the second time," D'Souza said.

The writer, who directed the film with a newcomer, John Sullivan, also said his film was thoroughly researched and was a timely warning to America.

D'Souza interviewed Obama's grandmother and his half brother in Kenya. While the former lives comfortably, the latter is living in a slum, waiting to save some money to study to be a mechanic.

The director, who said he would not have missed an opportunity to show the world how millionaire Obama neglected even his own family, gave George Obama some \$2,000.

"It was not a big deal," he said. "Though I appealed to the public to make donations, I put in much of that money myself. I knew it would not cost him a fortune to study to be a mechanic. I have lived in Mumbai and I know these things don't require a huge amount of money."

D'Souza said he was driven to make the film by the example of the ultra liberal Michael Moore but quickly pointed out that his own film was not sensational like Moore's anti-Bush documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11".

SOURCE: INTERNET

EID GIFTS

FAIZA HAQ

Eid is a season for exchange of gifts, be it in the form of simple saris, delicately embroidered shawls, or semi-precious earrings. They could also be chocolates, books or curios, carpets and wall hangings. Even quilted nakshikantha bedspreads, cross-stitch sofa-backs, or embroidered table mats figure in the gifts list.

Sometimes there is such a fluster and flurry in giving these presents that one wonders if the frantic hopping required for the pleasure of giving and taking of gifts is really worth the effort. At times there is a lot of care and preparation for the giving of presents, Yet, no matter, what the planning and length of time spent in choosing or making of the gifts, one tends to think that Eid is a time for the giving of kurtas, saris etc, and gets a little blasé about the wild stampede to please loved ones.

"Eid is here again!" said a friend of mine, as if it were another big pain in the neck to go buying the necessary presents. With the big crowds in the capital city, and the "hijackers" waiting in the lurch, it was understandable.

"I have to send off parcels to my sister-in law and nephew who live overseas. I hope I can stand another trip to the GPO this year in the process," sighed a colleague of mine.

I must be ready with the packets of homemade muffins for relatives and friends this Eid. With the hassle of last minute assignments to complete at the workplace this ends up in temper tantrums in the kitchen. If the cook by any chance, decides to take French leave and dilly-dally in her district home -- as was the case in one unfortunate house -- the giving of gifts is somehow not as enjoyable. This was because the time and energy of the particular person was taken up in the kitchen. The business of distributing parcels of trinkets and clothes then almost became a routine, humdrum exercise rather than a spell of fun.

"I got six sets of shalwar-kameez sets," boasted a teen-aged niece of mine with glee recently. "Guess what? I received four books from my uncles this time," said a jubilant school-going lad with much aplomb. The sense of satisfaction that one gets when one overhears the comments of the receiver is surely enormous for the giver. The sea of laughter and playful banter that ensue is undoubtedly worthwhile.

Eid is a season of rejoicing when the family and friends get together over meals, to sing the praise of their beloved relatives and friends who take enormous pains in the selection of gifts on this festive season.

TIME TO REJOICE



Quilted *nakshikantha* bedspreads, cross-stitch sofa-backs, or embroidered table mats figure in the gifts list.

PHOTO: STAR LIFESTYLE ARCHIVE

Voice of Sesame Street's Count von Count dies aged 78

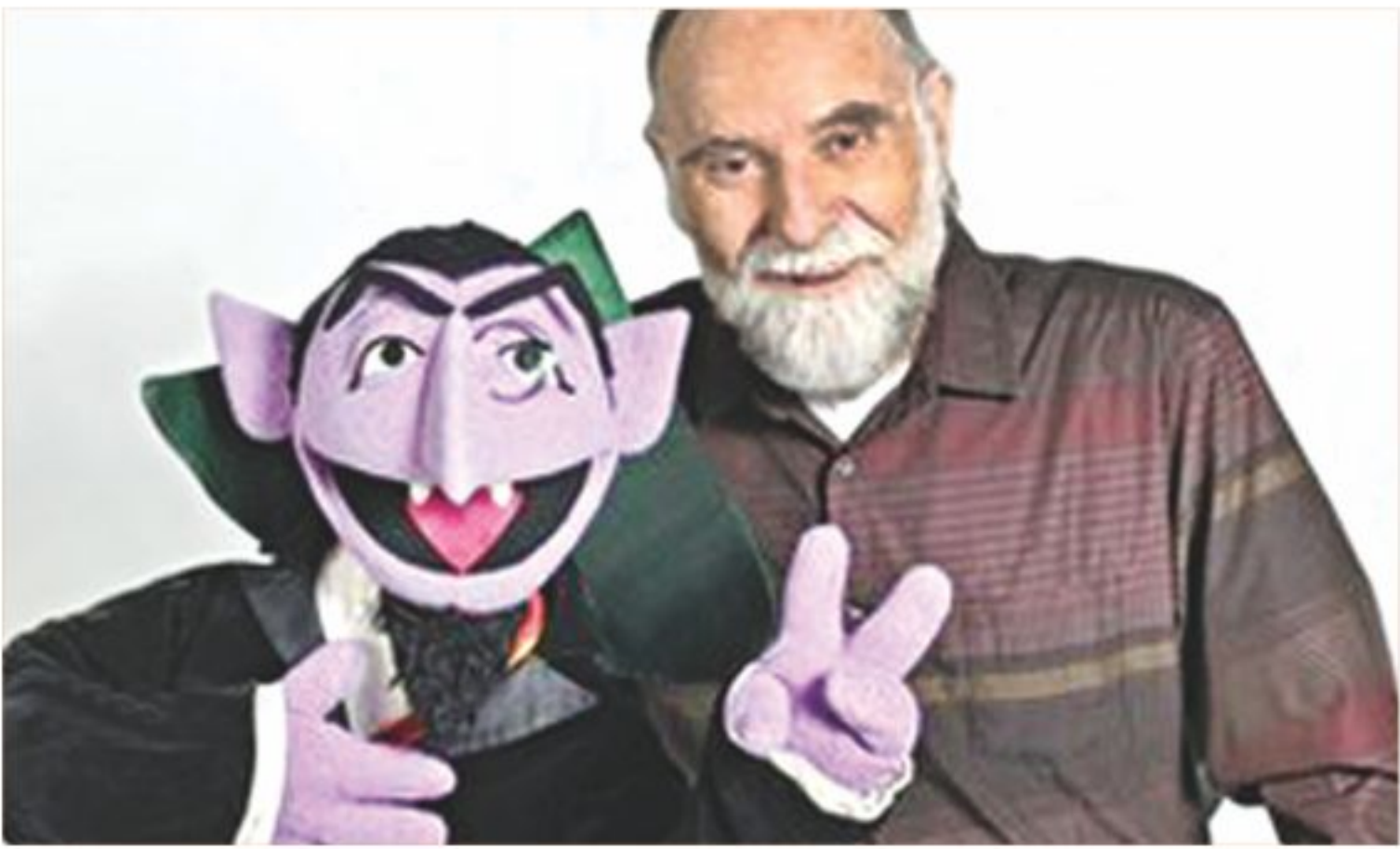
Jerry Nelson, the puppeteer and voice of Sesame Street's Count von Count, has died aged 78.

For more than 40 years, Nelson worked on numerous projects featuring Jim Henson's Muppets, including the TV series Fraggle Rock. Nelson, who suffered from emphysema, died on Thursday in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

A Sesame Workshop statement said he would be remembered for "the laughter he brought to children worldwide".

Nelson was born in Oklahoma, in the US, and raised in Washington DC. He began puppeteering for Bill Baird, who produced and performed the puppetry sequence for The Lonely Goatherd in the film version of The Sound of Music.

Nelson's first job with the Muppets was The Jimmy Dean Show in 1965 - replacing Frank Oz as Rowlf the Dog's right hand.



He went on to work again with Henson on Sesame Street, going on to animate some of the long-running show's best-loved characters including Mr Snuffleupagus.

Nelson worked with the Henson Company for more than 40 years. But it was his mathematics-obsessed Count von Count, modelled

on Bela Lugosi's interpretation of Count Dracula, with which he became most closely associated.

He continued to voice the character from 1972 until his death, though he ceased operating the puppet in 2004.

SOURCE: BBC

Beetle Baily

by Mort Walker

Henry

by Don Trachte

Raat Biratey On BANGLAVISION
at 11:25pm
Street Show
Guest: Nirob

Chaiची Tomar Bondhuta
On Desh TV at 09:45pm
Special Talk Show
Host: Abdullah Al Mamun

05:30	Birodoner Bichwa	06:30	Desh Jurey Shanglap	07:50	Taal	08:20	Drama Serial: Ohongkar
08:40pm	Rupantar Manush	09:45pm	Ochena Prothimbo	10:30pm	Kamini	10:30pm	Opipsh
10:30pm	Bokulganer Jatri	11:30pm	Zero Hour	12:30pm	Lead News	12:30pm	Tanika Kothon
12:30pm	Ei Shomoy	12:30pm	Ekushey-er Raat	12:30pm	Ekushey-er Business	12:30pm	Zero Hour

ATN BANGLA	08:40pm	Rupantar Manush	09:45pm	Ochena Prothimbo	10:30pm	Kamini	10:30pm	Opipsh	10:30pm	Bokulganer Jatri
ntv	09:45pm	Ochena Prothimbo	10:30pm	Kamini	10:30pm	Opipsh	10:30pm	Bokulganer Jatri	11:30pm	Zero Hour
ETV	09:30pm	Kamini	10:30pm	Opipsh	10:30pm	Bokulganer Jatri	11:30pm	Zero Hour	12:30pm	Lead News
Boshakhi TV	09:20pm	Opipsh	10:30pm	Bokulganer Jatri	11:30pm	Zero Hour	12:30pm	Lead News	12:30pm	Tanika Kothon
BANGLAVISION	08:15pm	Bokulganer Jatri	11:30pm	Zero Hour	12:30pm	Lead News	12:30pm	Tanika Kothon	12:30pm	Ei Shomoy

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