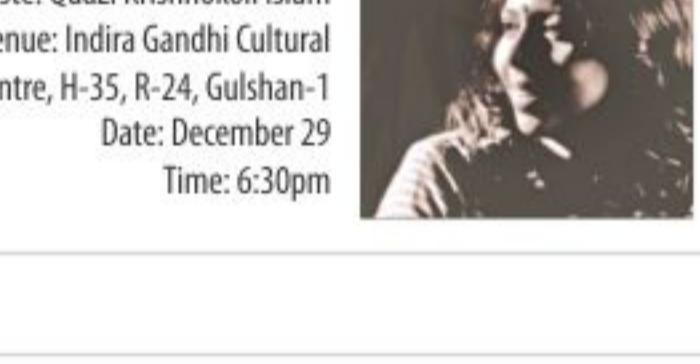
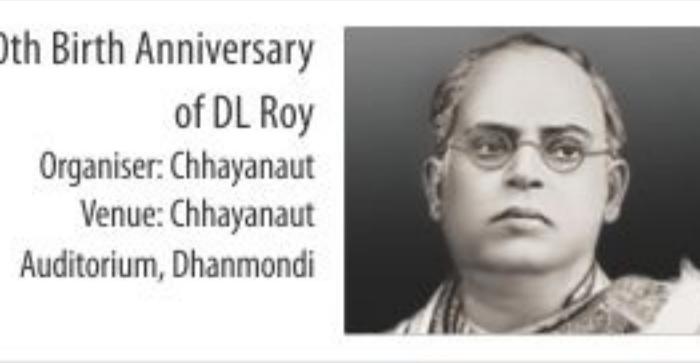


WHAT'S ON



DID YOU KNOW?

Syed Shamsul Haq

- From his poet-author identity, Syed Shamsul Haq is also a prominent playwright of the country.
- He wrote lyrical drama "Payer Awaj Pawa Jai" in 1976 and "Nurul din Sharajibon" in 1982. Both are considered to be groundbreaking plays in our theatre scenario.
- Haq married Anwara Syed Haq. She is a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in London. They have one daughter Bidita Sadiq and one son Dito Syed Haq.
- His father Syed Siddique Husain was a homoeopathic physician. His mother was Halima Khatun.
- Traditionally they belonged to a Pir (spiritual leader) family. But Haq's father broke the family tradition and studied in the main stream course of English education and then took up Medicine.



REACTIONS...

MA Mannan

One thing that separated Sohrab Bhai from other artistes was his gayakee, his style of presentation. He always used to give tips on singing styles of Nazrul Sangeet. I wish I had given more importance to his suggestions, and it's a mistake that I cannot rectify now.

Sadya Afreen Mallick

Sohrab Hossain was like a giant tree in the sphere of Nazrul Sangeet, providing shade to generations of singers. He, along with Sheikh Lutfar Rahaman and Sudhin Das, followed, preserved and taught the original tunes composed by Kazi Nazrul Islam. Today that nurturing, protective shade has been lifted. He was my guru at Chhayanaut. He simultaneously taught at Chhayanaut and Nazrul Academy and was closely associated with Nazrul Institute during the last days of his life. We would find the original essence of Nazrul Sangeet in his voice. Sohrab Bhai trained and groomed illustrious students including Dr. Sanjida Khatun, Nilufar Yasmin, Madmudur Rahman Benu, Shaheen Samad, Shabnam Mushtari, Yasmin Mushtari, MA Mannan, Parveen Mushtari, Rawshan Ara Masud, Rawshan Ara Mustafiz, Ismat Ara, Dalia Nasheen, Sabiba Mahbub and his daughters -- Rahat Ara Geeti and Soma.

Khairul Anam Shakil

It is hard to accept the demise of such a great figure in Nazrul Sangeet. Despite the fact that he lived a long life, the void that is left behind by his exit cannot be fulfilled.

For decades, Sohrab Hossain contributed greatly to the cause of Bangla music, and older generations will agree that it was him who disseminated Nazrul Sangeet among households through his marvellous presentation. I feel fortunate and blessed to have had his guidance as a teacher and mentor, and even when we grew as artistes, he would give us invaluable advice on singing. More than that, he was always keen to share his vast experience that has helped us greatly in many aspects. I strongly believe that Sohrab Hossain will be remembered by senior and aspiring artistes of Nazrul Sangeet.

Khilkhil Kazi

It's a sad day for us. Nazrul Sangeet has lost a guardian. I visited him often. He used to tell me stories about my father and dadu (Kazi Nazrul Islam). Just a couple of weeks ago, he was reminiscing old times, and sang a few songs so beautifully, and his daughter was telling me how his memory was still serving him well. We were mesmerised, and I was regretting the fact that I did not have a recorder. He didn't seem well at all. It's like losing your father, and cannot be expressed in words. I pray for eternal peace for his soul, and I hope that Nazrul Sangeet artistes of today and tomorrow can follow his path and keep Nazrul's music in their hearts.

Yasmin Mushtari

I remember, when my father passed away, and I did not eat for two days. It was Sohrab Chacha who came and fed me with his own hands. We love Nazrul more than ourselves, and those who sing Nazrul Sangeet are also very close to my heart. I am a huge fan of his style of singing, and I feel that Nazrul Sangeet found a true devotee in him. Although we did not meet often, he was always an inspiration. I feel like an orphan once again today. He is not with us any more, but he will live on in our hearts, and we will all take forward his dreams of upholding Nazrul. All of us, who were his students, have learned something from him, and our promise today should be to pass it on. We will not let his memories fade away, and as long as Nazrul Sangeet will remain, Sohrab Hossain will be alive.

Sohrab Hossain

As a 9-year-old, he first met Kazi Nazrul Islam at a gathering in Ranaghat. He heard someone singing and made his way through the crowd to take a look at the singer. He was fascinated not only by the words -- "Durgamo giri kantor muro dustar parabara hey", but also the zeal with which the artiste rendered the song. It was as if, one could not separate the singer from his song. According to Hossain, that song made an immense impact on him.

Sohrab Hossain was an artiste at peace with himself. No wonder, considering his commitment to music and his acclaim as a household name for April 9, 1922.

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"The style of Nazrul Sangeet that is popular today in Bangladesh is perhaps best demonstrated in Sohrab Hossain's singing," added Professor Islam.

Hossain's favourite Nazrul Sangeet were: "Phooler jalshaye", "Ami chirotorey durey choley jabo" and "Shobor kotha koiley".

The artiste and guru earned accolades and medals for his single-minded dedication to preserving and performing Nazrul's songs. He was honoured with the Swadhinata Puroshkar by the Bangladesh government in 1980.

After Partition Sohrab Hossain settled in Dhaka. Nazrul researcher Professor Rafiqul Islam called Sohrab Hossain's voice "a gift from God."

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After the film began, it started to make more sense. More than the fact that it was the first Bond movie on the big screen for the film buffs of Dhaka, the fact that this is arguably the best Bond film ever accounted for the rush. A number of reasons set this film apart: Daniel Craig's moulding of the super spy character in the film, coming out of Sean Connery's shadows -- a

feat the previous Bonds probably never attempted. As Maria -- one of the ardent followers of Bond at the cinema -- said, Daniel Craig played the most "human" James Bond so far, in "Skyfall". Dame Judi Dench, who has been part of the last 6 Bond movies, also has a powerful role in this instalment. The pace also follows the classic format of any good espionage movie; that of bursting into heart-pumping action with much-larger-than-life sequences, in the middle of calm, and mostly silent, slow progress. The casting of the megalomaniac villain, Javier Bardem, the role of Silva, also adds to the strengths of the film, as he carries the sinister role with great authority. The settings also have to do a lot with

the film's output, specially the latter part that takes place in the Scottish estate that was Bond's childhood home. Flavours of the old Bond movies are strong in this part, including the improvisational booby traps and limited-resource fight-off sequences.

Meherdah Ahmed, a recently-graduated doctor, said he is not a die hard fan, but the biggest reason he came to the hall was because it was out here on the large screen, before a good print of it was available for download.

Star Cineplex, meanwhile, is promising to bring oven-



fresh films to Dhaka; they have already launched "The Amazing Spiderman" in 3D, not too long after their international releases. According to its website, Cineplex will bring recent releases of various franchises, including "Paramore Activity 4" and "The Bourne Legacy", along with other latest blockbusters like "The Life of Pi" and "Prometheus".

Right after the launch of the 3D films, Cineplex has also opened a new movie hall with the premiere of "Skyfall" -- featuring digital projection.

SKYFALL keeps movie-lovers on the edge of their seats

Star Cineplex promises more to come

FAHMIM FERDous

More than three weeks after the launch of a film at Star Cineplex in Bashundhara City Mall, Dhaka, one should not be too worried about availability of tickets for a Sunday 1:35 pm show. But it seems that Dhaka cannot get enough of 007.

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PHOTO: ATLAKASH

Excited fans line up at Cineplex entrance to watch Bond in action.

Syed Shamsul Haq turns 78

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syed Shamsul Haq is considered one of the greatest Bangladeshi poets to have emerged in the 1950s. He has written poems, novels, short stories, essays, plays, travelogue and more. His relevant subjects and unique approach have fetched him admiration for six decades. His immense contribution to Bangladeshi poetry over the years has earned him international acclaim as well.

On December 27, this multifac-

eted personality turned 78. On the occasion, veteran novelists, poets, writers, publishers, cultural personalities and admirers greeted the poet with flowers, sweets, cards and gifts at his residence in Gulshan, Dhaka. A number of cultural and literary organisations also held discussions, recitation and cultural programmes.

Haq was born in Kurigram in 1935. In the early 1960s, he introduced unique themes and style through his poetry and novels. His poems are unpretentious and reach out to a wider readership. His style

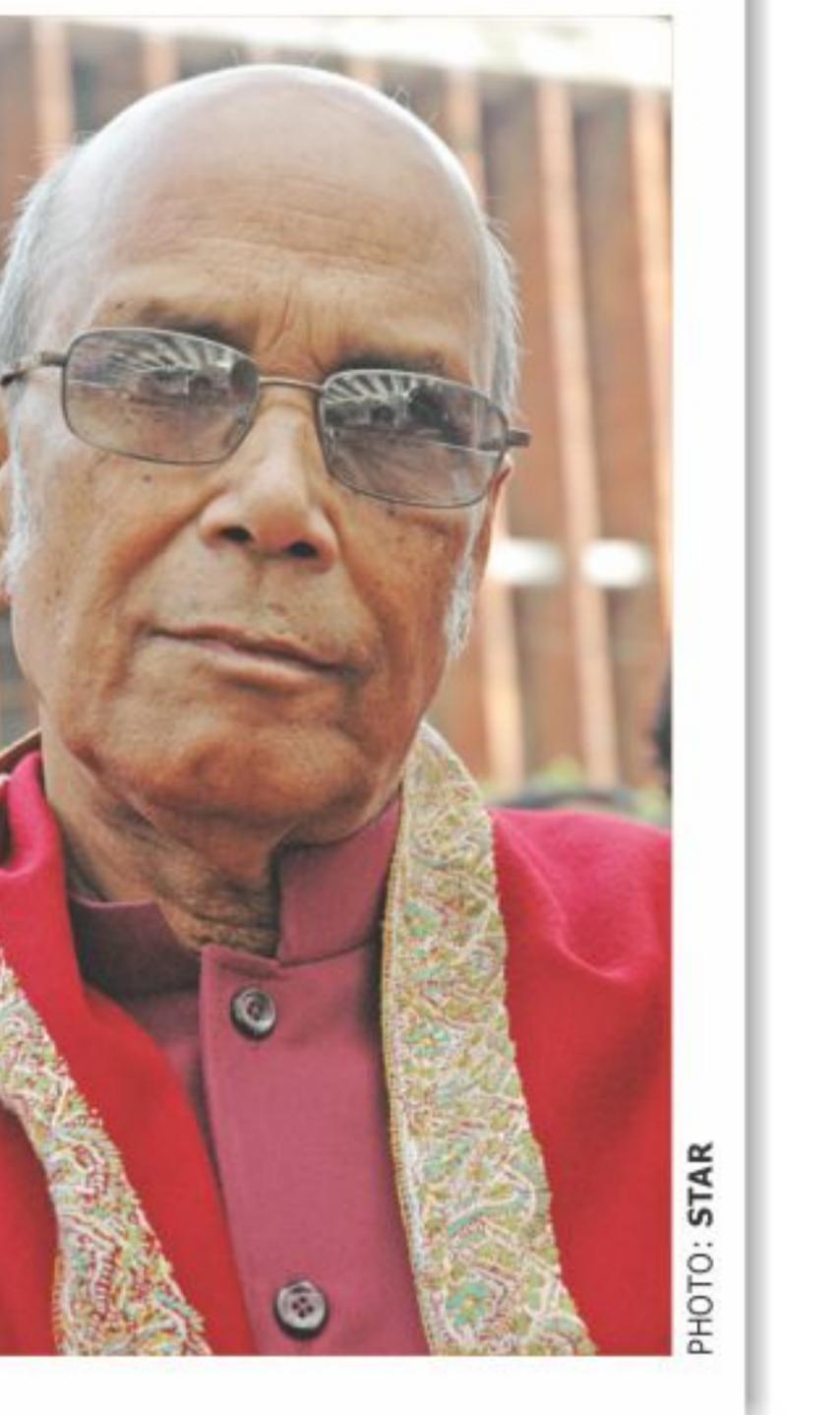


PHOTO: STAR

and tone are unique. His poems focus on Bengali culture and tradition, romanticism, patriotism, nature and the Liberation War. In his novels and short stories, Haq delves deep into urban and rural life as well as social, political and economic issues.

The poet has been honoured with

the Adamejee Literary Award, Shadhinota Puroshkar, Ekuhshey Padak, Padabali Kobita Award, Mazharul Islam Poetry Award, Nasiruddin Gold Medal, National Poetry Award and more.

THEATRE

TEMPEST on Cox's Bazar beach, DHABOMAN in Ramu

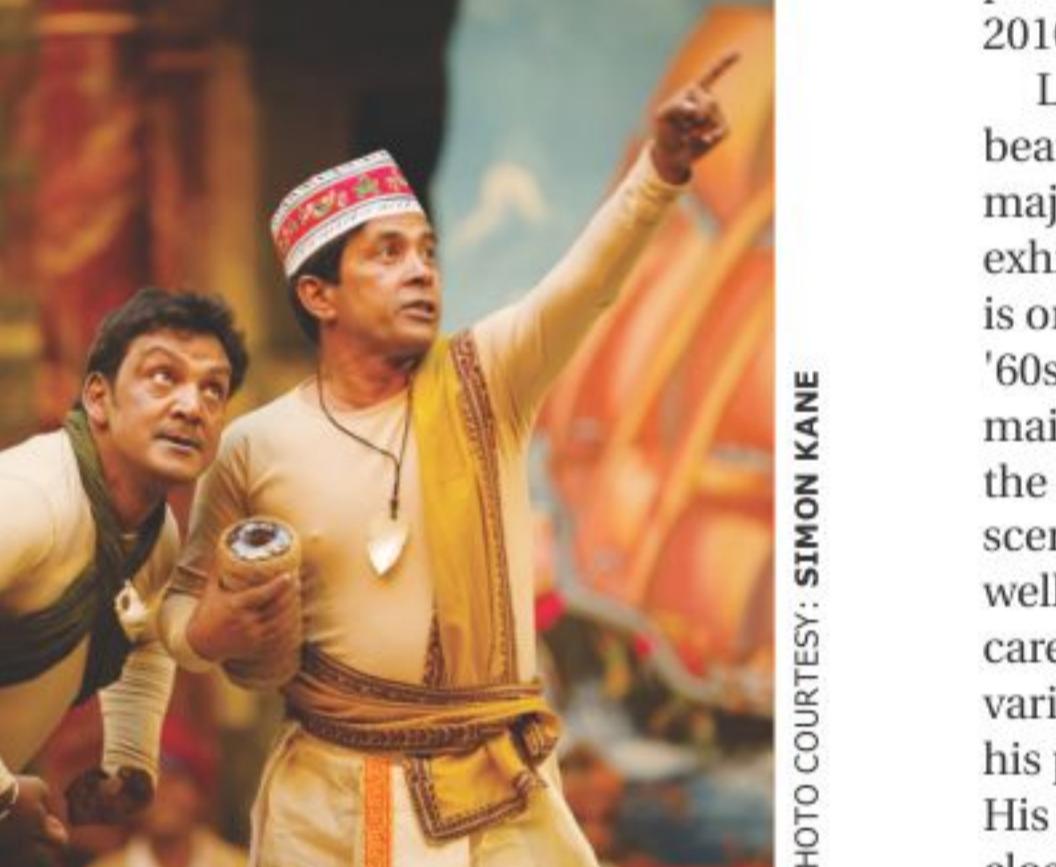


PHOTO COURTESY: SIMON KANE

A scene from "Tempest".

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Theatre will stage its adaptation of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" at Cox's Bazar, on the beach, this afternoon. The troupe will stage the Selim Al Deepen play "Dhaboman" in Ramu on December 29. Moreover, Dhaka Theatre will stage the monodrama "Binodini" at the Cox's Bazar District Auditorium on December 30 as part of a month-long programme by Shammilita Sangskritik Jote.

Nasiruddin Yousuff, chief of Dhaka Theatre and director of "Tempest" and "Binodini", said that the "Tempest" show will be a unique event, as the actors will perform on a (70x40 ft) stage built like a shaman (a traditional boat) and the audience will be seated on the beach. The play will telecast the show live starting from 3 pm today.

Yousuff's direction finds a language that complements the troupe's signature style. Rubayet Ahmed translated the play into Bangla.

Two Manipuri artistes Nil Moni Singh and Bidhan Chandra Singh, along with regular members of the troupe, will perform in the play in traditional Manipuri Natpala style. Guest actor Rubol Noor Lodi will perform as Prospero.

On the other hand, "Dhaboman" will be staged to empathise with the Buddhist community in Ramu who saw miscreants burning and looting their houses and temples on September 29 this year. Yousuff sees it as a "cultural discourse to understand the Buddhist community's wounds."

"Dhaboman" highlights an indigenous community's beliefs and myths as well as harmony among people of different faiths. The play has been directed by Shrimul Yousuf.

Set in a village by the Someshwari river in the greater Mymensingh area, the play features a buffalo named Sohrab as its protagonist. In the Mandi tradition, buffaloes are honoured as a manifestation of the divine.

"Binodini" is a biographical play based on the life of legendary Bengali theatre actress Binodini Dasi. Saymon Zakaria, under the guidance of Selim Al Deepen, did the dramatisation.

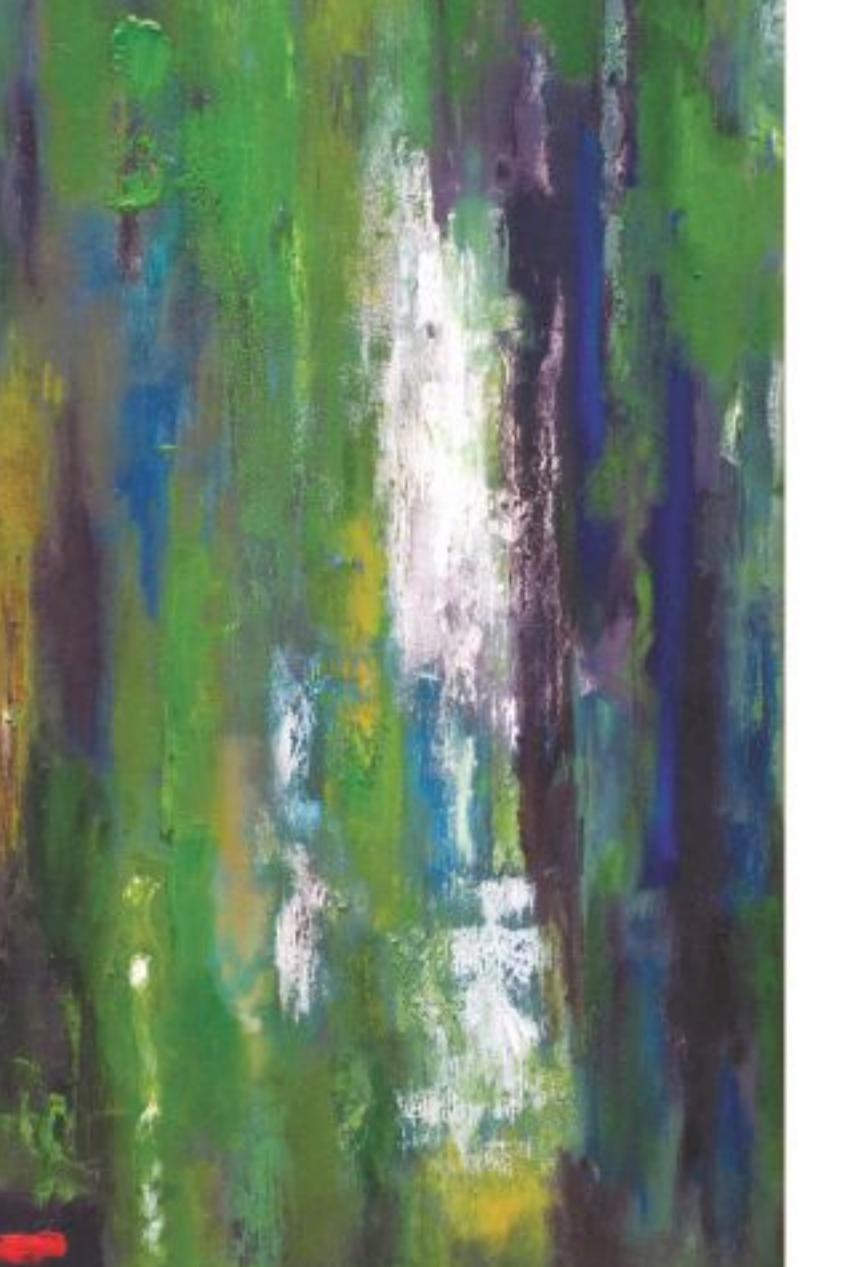
TAKER



inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Yussuf Abdulla Harun, former president of FBCCI; publisher and cultural activist Mofidul Haq will be present as special guests at the inauguration.

Shome was born in 1948 in Jamalpur. He completed his BFA from College of Arts and Crafts (presently Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka) in 1969. He has exhibited in India, Germany, England, Hong Kong, Brazil and other countries. He received many awards and accolades including Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Award, Atish Diparkar Gold Medal, Palok Shishu Sahitya Sangshad Award, Chandrabati Gold Medal, Poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah Award and Begum Faizunessa Gold Medal.

Professor Anisuzzaman will



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Shome works with acrylic, oil and collage, and uses many mediums and techniques for bringing dimension to his works. Red, azure and emerald green are predominant in his works. Coarse lines and soft texture carry a distinct mark in his paintings. His compositions are neatly organised, demonstrating soothing tones and

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