

**WHAT'S ON**

**Rabindra Alekhya**  
Title: Kobi Anuragini  
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh  
Date: Jan 2  
Time: 6:30pm

**Cultural Evening**  
Title: Ron Faber's Nilyayeyi  
Organiser: Ministry of Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs  
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhhamondi  
Date: Dec 30

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Life in Abstraction, Abstraction in Life  
Artist: Biren Shome  
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhhamondi

**Mohammad Kibria Print Fair**  
Title: Print for All  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhhamondi  
Date: Jan 1-5

**Noboborsa Boi Utsub**  
Organiser: Adom Publication  
Venue: Public Library, Shahbagh  
Date: Dec 29-Jan 13  
Time: 10am-9pm

**Theatre Festival**  
Tribute to Kalim Sharafi  
Organiser: Nagarik Natyangan  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakaala Academy  
Date: Dec 27-Jan 02  
Time: 6:30pm

**Zainul Festival '12**  
Marking 98th Birth Anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin  
Venue: Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka  
Date: Dec 28-30  
Time: 10am-7pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Sense, Dream and Reality  
Artist: An Shaukat An  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhhamondi  
Date: Dec 18-31

# NOSTALGIA

## The Bulbul's deafening silence

SADYA AFREN MALICK

On a cold winter morning on December 27, Nazrul's world lost one of its most revered and beloved guardians. The "Bulbul" of Nazrul songs, Sohrab Hossain breathed his last, leaving behind a nation in mourning.

An all-pervasive personality who seemed to cast his protective shadow over the world of Nazrul Sangeet, he was a father figure, a devoted artiste and a mentor to all around him. Sohrab Hossain nourished and preserved the original Nazrul tunes with tireless dedication and with a passion second to none.

He was among the golden crop of artistes who immortalised the golden era of the 1940's to the 1980's. Abbasuddin Ahmed, Sohrab Hossain, Sheikh Luthfur Rahman, Bedaruddin Ahmed, Abdul Halim Chowdhury, Laila Azumand Banu, Afari Khanum, along with Ferza Begum, Shudhin Das, Julhasuddin Ahmed popularised Nazrul songs to grand heights and captured audiences far and across.



meaning of the songs.

Sohrab Hossain - Sohrab *bhai* to me - was my guru at Chhayanaut, (the name aptly signifying the shade of a tree) and also trained students at Bulbul Academy, Nazrul Academy and Nazrul Institute.

The sight of him arriving at Chhayanaut on his noisy Vespa motorcycle is an image that somehow refuses to leave my memory. He used to jokingly call his motorcycle the "helicopter". With a permanent smile on his face he would engage in friendly banter with Sheikh Luthfur Rahman and Zahidur Rahim to create a lighter mood before our classes started. Behind the easy smile, however was a strict disciplinarian when it came to training, a stickler for maintaining the original notations of Nazrul and a purist when it came to performing.

My earliest memory of him is facing him at the Chhayanaut admission exam held in English Preparatory school in the Dhaka University campus in 1969. Sohrab *bhai* along with Sanjida Khatun was taking the admission tests. At Sohrab *bhai*'s suggestion I was admitted not to the *shishu* class, but to a class higher, the *prarambhik* class. During my first performance on stage at the annual function of Chhayanaut, held at Engineers' Institute, Sohrab *bhai* had taught me the song *Biswas Dulali Nabi Nandini*, an Islamic song. Little did I know that for the next 45 years he would be my guide in the journey through the fascinating world of Nazrul songs.

Sohrab *bhai*'s own journey through Nazrul Sangeet has been nothing short of illustrious. His voice had certain inimitable qualities that would mesmerise audiences. Nazrul songs starting from *ghazal*, *kabyogeeti* to *kirtan*, folk and Islamic all blended flawlessly with his renditions. The song never seemed the same when sung by following artists. His gayaki captured listeners with a unique mix of resonating timbre and nimble voice modulation. His songs such as *Shaon Ashilo Phirey*, *Pashane Bhangale Ghuum*, *Ke Bideshi*, *Beshur Binaye*, *Gaan Guli Mor* brought to life the inner

his mastery of the range of Nazrul songs was well known. He would effortlessly perform *kirtan*, *ghazal* and lighter songs such as *Anar Hori Namey Ruchi Karon Porinamey Luchi*; *Chhuona Chhuyona Bodhu*; *Alga Koro Khopar Badhon*; *Mor Pria Hobei Esho Rani*, *Nirjoyee Shokhi* and *Ami Kaul Chhere Cholikom Bheshey*. In fact, there is hardly any variety of Nazrul Sangeet that he has not performed.

Sohrab *bhai* would often recall his fascination with the music played on the gramophone records. "I was so desperate to attend theatre that I even had to sell my mother's valuables to buy the tickets! The Minerva Theatre, in West Bengal, was a popular source of entertainment at that time. During the interval of the plays "Sirajuddowla" and "Laili Majnu", reputed singers like Angur Bala, Indu Bala used to perform songs. Gradually, I could say the drama lines of the characters by heart, not to speak of the songs. This is how my love for Nazrul songs started," he would add.

Continuing in the same vein, he said, "I hardly knew who the composer or writer was behind the songs. I remember one morning when everyone was rushing towards the Ranaghat bazaar. There was an air of breathless excitement. The one thing I remember from that first encounter with the poet, Nazrul, was his wild locks of hair and deep inquisitive eyes. Little did I know then that someday I would be so inspired by the immense creativity of the poet and that his songs would be my ultimate identity."

During the pre-partition days, he trained in Nazrul

# Bodhon celebrates silver jubilee in Chittagong

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Bodhon Abritti Parishad, a renowned poetry society association of the port city recently celebrated its silver jubilee under the theme "Andhar bhenge alor bunon" (Escape from darkness to the world of light).

Marking the special occasion, it organised a four-day festival which started at District Shilpakaala Academy premises featuring discussions, performances of solo and group recitations by artistes from home and abroad, adda (informal discussion), parade and recitation of self-authored poems.

The festival was dedicated to two great revolutionaries of Chittagong, Master Da Surya Sen and Prillata Waddedar who were martyred in their fight to liberate the country from British colonial rule.

The unique event started with a colourful parade from Shilpakaala Academy and passed through landmark sites in the city. Dancing to the beats of dhol by Babul Jaladas and his troupe, boys in white panjabi and girls in white sari took part in the procession with banners and festoons.

Veteran anti-colonial revolutionary Binod Bihari Chowdhury inaugurated the festival as the chief guest. Later, noted reciters and actors Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Bhaswar Bandopadhyay and Bodhon Secretary Sohel Anwar led the discussion with Bodhon President Ranjit Rakshit chairing the session.

In his speech, Binod Bihari



With candles in their hands members of the organisation recite at the programme.

Chowdhury said, that youth are the only hope of the country as they have the ability to challenge the status quo. Going back to his childhood, he said that in the past, the voice was the key element in recitation.

"Nowadays the art has acquired a new dimension as it is supplemented by appropriate background music and more," he added.

He also expressed the hope that Bodhon in conjunction with the youth would continue its active struggle against present forces of darkness by spreading the practice of this medium.

Bhaswar Bandopadhyay said, Bodhon is an assembly of visionaries who strive to create a society where there are no communal forces and he was fortunate to be closely associated with the organisation since its inception.

Jayanta Chattopadhyay said, "Institutions like Bodhon can play a significant role in building creative minds."

Following the discussion, in darkness, members of the audience with candles in their hands recited the poem "Bodhon", written by Sukanta Bhattacharya.

Bodhon commenced its journey on January 9, 1987 during the turmoil of autocratic rule. In 1992 the organisation published the country's first recitation related publication "Abritti". Bodhon also established the country's first recitation school Bodhon Abritti School, that has generated 3,000 students who emerged from its portals.

The programme concluded with recitations by Joyanto Chattopadhyay, Golam Sarwar and other noted reciters from Chittagong and other districts.

The festival concluded on December 28 with a discussion and conferring honour on a number of cultural personalities.

# Showcasing rich arts and crafts

## Zainul Festival at Faculty of Fine Arts ends today

ZAHANGIR ALOM

To mark the 98th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), University of Dhaka is holding a three-day "Zainul Festival" at the FFA premises.

Jahanara Abedin, widow of Zainul Abedin, inaugurated the festival on December 28. The festival is open from 10am to 7pm everyday and concludes today (December 30).

Noted artists, teachers and students of FFA laid floral wreaths on the grave of Zainul Abedin yesterday morning. As part of the Zainul Festival, Dhaka University honoured two artists. Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique conferred Zainul Sammanona 2012 on renowned Japanese ceramist Professor Koichi Takita and artist Mir Mustafa Ali. Jahanara Abedin was present on the occasion as a special guest. A discussion that included noted artists and several teachers of FFA was held at Bakultala premises.

The traditional Zainul Mela (fair) is simultaneously on at FFA premises where several stalls are displaying the artworks of teachers and students of all the eight departments -- Drawing and Painting, Oriental Art, Printmaking, Sculpture, Ceramics, Crafts, Graphic Design and Art History -- of the faculty. A few stalls showcasing Lakkhishora, Shokher Hari, Shika, Shola, dolls and more made by the traditional artisans are also on sale at the fair.

Another stall featuring the activities of Fine Art Photography Forum and Fine Art Film Forum (FAFF) is



Artist Rafiqun Nabi speaks at the festival.

drawing visitors too. FAFF has also arranged a film screening. Documentary film "Zainul Abedin", made by Rabiul Karim was screened on the opening and the second day while video footage of a dialogue between illustrious sculptor Ramkinkar Baij and noted filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak of India will be screened today at 6pm. The festival also includes a 'pitha utshab' (rice cake fair) and a painting exhibition.

Marking 50 years of the Department of Ceramics, an exhibition displaying award winning artworks by the students and teachers of the department of FFA is being held alongside the festival. A festive mood is in evidence at the FFA premises as spirited students dance to the beats of traditional *dhak* and *dhol*.

# Bangla Academy honorary fellowships conferred



Awardees and guests at the programme.

The 35th annual general meeting of Bangla Academy was held on December 28 at the academy premises. Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of the academy delivered the annual report. Mohammad Altaf Hossain, secretary of Bangla Academy delivered the budget and elaborated on the varied activities of the academy.

On the same day, the academy awarded honorary fellowships to ten distinguished personalities, for their outstanding contribution to different fields. The fellowships were awarded

in the second session of the annual general meeting.

The awardees are prominent artist Murtaja Baseer; Home Minister Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir; Central Bank Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman; economist M Saiduzzaman; former Chief Justice M Tafazzal Islam; singers Runa Laila and Sabina Yasmin; physician Pran Gopal Datta; publisher Mohiuddin Ahmed and musician Pandit Ramkanai Das.

Professor Anisuzzaman, president of Bangla Academy and Shamsuzzaman Khan, handed over citations and bouquets to the recipients of the fellowship.

**ATN BANGLA**  
11:20 Business and Finance  
12:10 Amrao Pari  
06:15 Shushta Thakun  
11:30 Drama Serial: Boiri Batash

**CHANNEL 9**  
09:00 Bangla Feature Film  
07:20 Drama Serial: Baurkuran  
10:00 Drama Serial: Idiots  
11:15 Bits Unlimited

**CHANNEL 24**  
01:05 Musical Programme  
08:00 Shopping & Cooking  
08:30 Travel Show

**CHANNEL I**  
02:45 Gorey Ghorey Gaaner Ushab  
Ragpaper  
06:30 Drama Serial: Tukro  
Chohoir Album  
11:30 Proktril O Jibon

**CHANNEL 11**  
01:05 Musical Programme  
08:00 Shopping & Cooking  
08:30 Travel Show

**GTV**  
11:30 Bangla Feature Film  
09:00 Harmony  
09:35 Drama Serial: Jonani

**Radio**

abc Radio FM 89.2	12:30 No Tension
09:30 Edik Odik	04:00 Dhaka Calling
09:30 Kacha Lanka	09:00 Full Volume
06:30 Mitha Koro	11:00 Back to Back Music
07:20 GP Launch	
07:45 Megh Barata	06:00 Green FM
09:30 Love Hour	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
11:10 Hindi Hits	12:00 Today's Adda
RADIO FOOTB	04:00 U-Turn
07:30 Hello Dhaka	07:00 Tobby Tai Hok
18:00 Morning Express	10:00 Raat Rhoi Gaan

**Tomakei Khujche Bangladesh**  
On ntv at 09:00pm  
Musical Talent Hunt  
Judges: Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, Fahmida Nabi &

**From Paris with Love**  
On HBO  
at 05:20pm  
Genre: Action/Crime  
Cast: John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys

**Khonikaly**  
On Maasranga Television  
at 08:40pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Hasan Inam, Ferdausi Majumdar

# Silver Lining in the Mushroom Clouds

MOHAMMAD ASAFUDDOWLAH

1951. Dhaka was a peaceful town as opposed to a bustling city. A soccer player looks for a ball and space. A cricketer looks for a green ground. A swimmer looks for a pool. I started looking for the sound of music. That took me to a dilapidated yellow building on Nazimuddin Road. Entry was difficult. Zealous guards would only allow artists and staff. My elder sister was a regular vocalist and on the excuse of chaperoning her, I gradually guaranteed hassle free entry. Slowly, I was acquainted with the rehearsal rooms, the studio rooms and the people who used them.

From 1955 I was myself a regular performing artiste of vocal music from Radio Pakistan.

When I gained popularity, I felt the need to learn more. It is exactly at this point that I observed a gaping vacuum. There were very few to go to. Ustad Gul Muhammad Khan with a tall black cap belonged to the Agra Gharana. He was too old to be a regular teacher. But he was an old-style classicist, who had very little patience with light classical music. He was a bit monotonous but a true follower of his gharana. Then there were Ustad Munir Hussain Khan, Ustad Latifat Hussain Khan, Ustad Muhammad Hussain Khusru, Ustad Qader Zamiri, Ustad Eusuf Khan Qureshi, Ustad Khusru who was quite profound in his theoretical knowledge. Ustad Eusuf Khan Qureshi was Ustad Gul Muhammad's younger brother. His improvisations were extremely brilliant and sonorous, but he was an extremely shy and aloof person. Pandit Barin Majumder of Pabna also came to Dhaka and helped establish Dhaka Music College in 1955. Any yet, the disappointment persisted like floating ice.

Among the instrumental geniuses I easily recall Ustad Ayat Ali Khan (Sur Bahar), younger brother of music supreme Ustad Allauddin Khan of Brahmanbaria and later of Maihar, Ustad Fuljhari Khan (Tabla and later Tar Shehnai), Kanaihal Shukla (Dotara), Ustad Bahadur Hossain Khan (Sitar and later Surod), Ustad Khadem Hossain Khan (Sitar), Mir Kashem Khan (Sitar), Shona Mia (Violin), Bundu Khan (Sareng), Sakhawath Hossain Khan (Tabla), Mohammad Hossain Khan (Tabla), Dhir Ali Mia (Flute) they comprised a competent ensemble.

Meanwhile, a great musical event happened. We organised the coming of Dhaka of Ustad Nazakat Ali Khan and his younger brother, Ustad Salamat Ali Khan, the most outstanding performers of vocal classical music of the fifties, sixties and seventies in the entire sub-continent. They performed at the

# Theatre festival to pay homage to Kalim Sharafi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nagarik Natyangan Ensemble has arranged a weeklong theatre festival at Bangladesh Shilpakaala Academy to commemorate the troupe's late president and pioneering Thagore singer Kalim Sharafi.

The festival began at the National Theatre Hall of the academy on December 27. On the inaugural day, the organising troupe staged its new play "Jugal Bandi".

Sharafi, renowned for promoting and upholding Tagore songs across the country, had a keen interest in theatre as well. He was the president of Nagarik Natyangan Ensemble from 1997 till his death in 2010.

Liaquat Ali Lucky, DG, Bangladesh Shilpakaala Academy, Jamaluddin Hossain of Nagarik Natyangan Ensemble and artist Hasem Khan, among others, spoke at the inaugural ceremony of the festival.

Jamaluddin Hossain said that Sharafi was an inspiration for his troupe and a fond admirer of theatre practices of the country. Later, a group of singers sang Rabindra Sangeet in memory of Sharafi.

The festival features plays produced by local troupes Nagarik Natyangan Ensemble, Nagarik Natyasampraday and Theatre (Bailey Road) as well as two plays by Bahurupi from Kolkata, India. Bahurupi staged "Dipdanda" and "Chha(n)ch Bhangra Murti" on December 28 and 29.

The organising troupe's new play "Jugal Bandi" is an adaptation of a Manoj Mitra literary work. The play, directed by Jamaluddin Hossain, a political satire, depicted allegorically the story of a Sultan and his newly born conjoined twin sons.

Raizul Islam, Sayeed Rahman, Abdullah Al Mamun, Asad Quader, Shaon Sagir and Chanchal Shaikat played different roles in the play.

Bahurupi's "Dipdanda" is written by Teerthankar Chandra and directed by Kumar Roy. The play is a narrative of the region's socio-political developments from ancient times.

Amio Haldar, Debesh Roy Chowdhury, Probal Mukhopadhyay, Jhimuk Sarkar and Gauri Shankar Mukhopadhyay played different roles.

Today, Theatre (Bailey Road) will stage "Meraj Fakir Ma".

The organising troupe will stage "Bibishab" on the last day. The troupe will also celebrate its anniversary with a brief cultural programme prior to the staging of the play.

# 150th Birth Anniversary of DL Roy

## Chhayanaut's musical homage

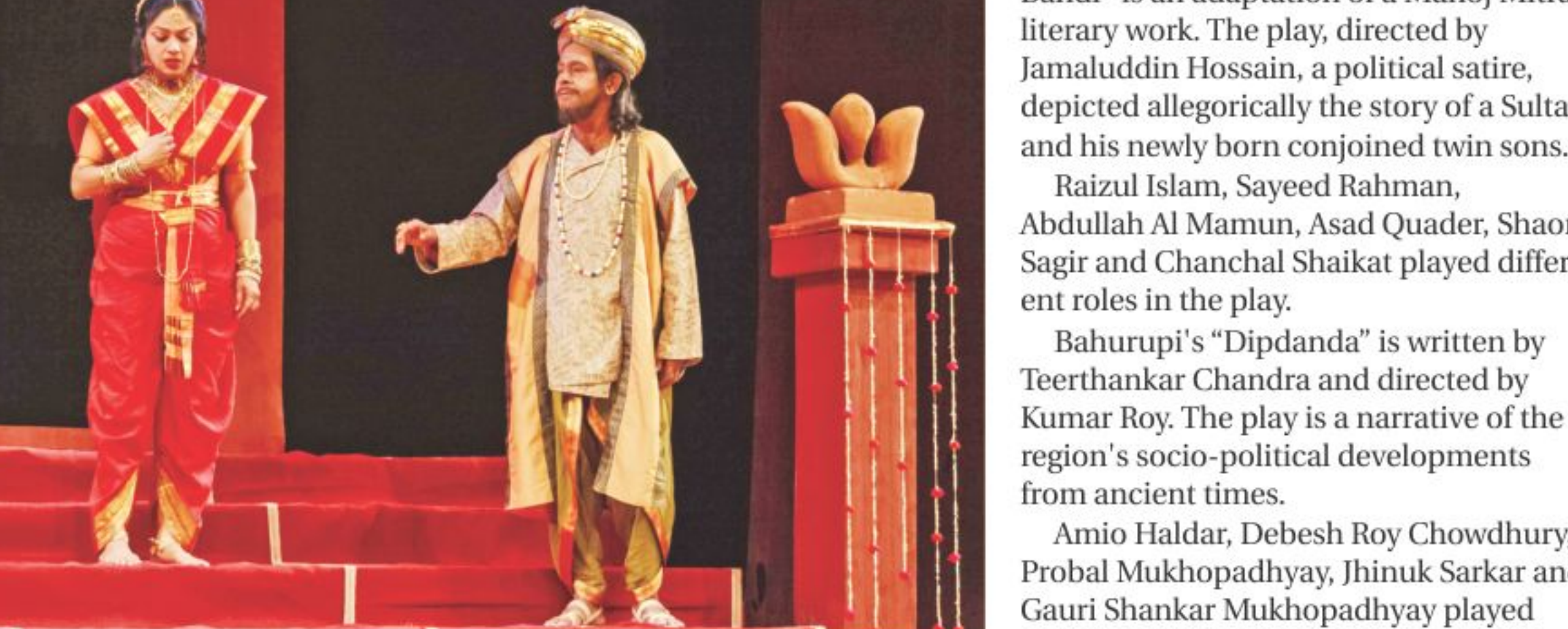
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking 150th birth anniversary of Dwijendral Roy (DL Roy), Chhayanaut arranged a musical soiree at its main auditorium on December 28. Artistes of Chhayanaut set off the soiree with a choral rendition of the song "Bangor Amar Jononi Amar". Noted artiste Nilyotpal Sadhya elaborated on the life and works of DL Roy at the event.

"DL Roy grew up in a musical family. He is famous for his patriotic song compositions for plays. He can be termed as the king of composing humorous songs. He was adept in both Hindustani and Western classical music. The song 'Dhano Dhano Pushpo Bhora' is the best composition of the Bard," said Nilyotpal Sadhya.

The musical soiree featured both solo and choral rendition of songs composed by DL Roy. Anindita Chowdhury performed a solo "E Ki Modhur Chhondo" that captivated the hearts of many. Sanjida Beethika with Semanti Manjuri presented a duet "Amra Malay Batashey".

Choral rendition of the songs -- "Amra Emni Esho Bheshe Jai" and "Dhano Dhano Pushpo Bhora" -- received much applause from the audience. Noted artists Ifrat Ara Dewan and Aditi Mohsin performed -- "Tumi Je Hey Praner Bondhu" and "Ekbar Gaal Bhora Maa Daak-e" respectively at the soiree.



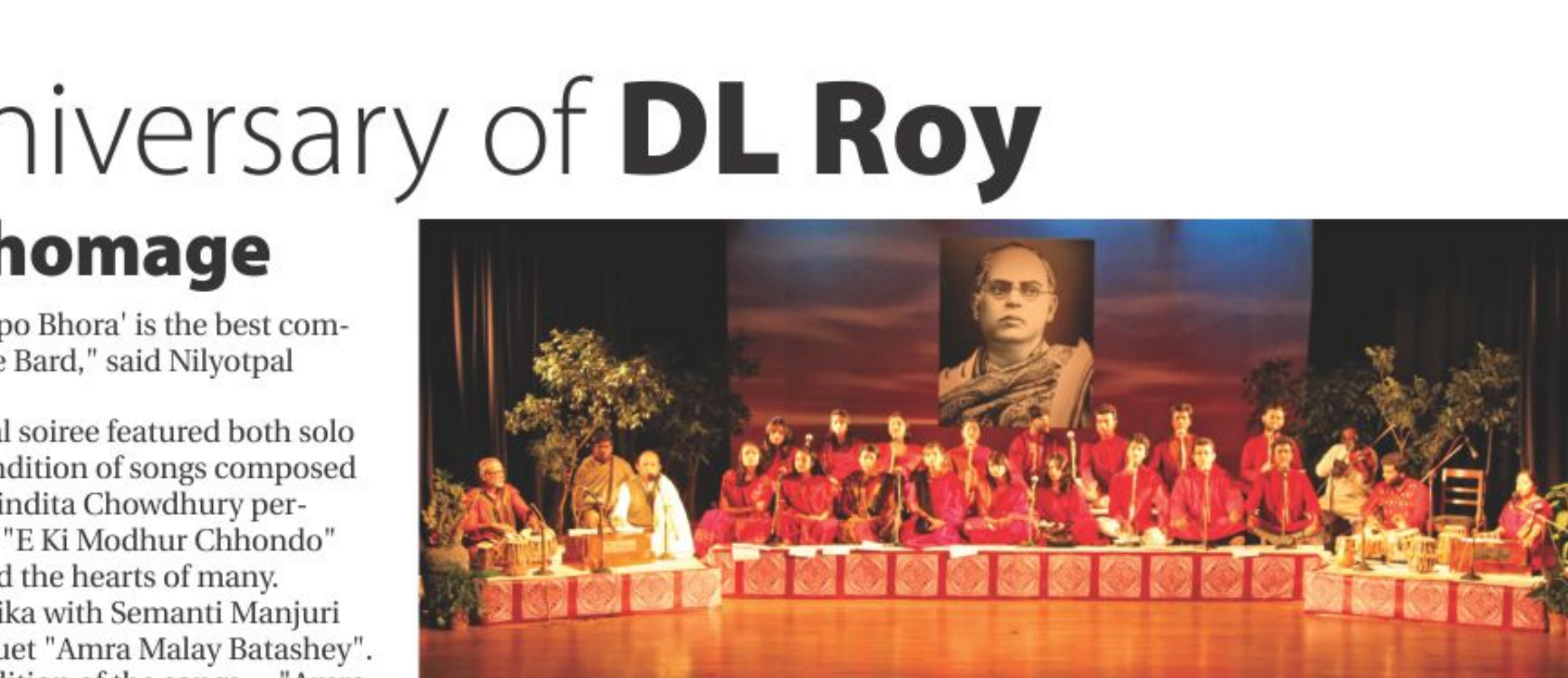
A scene from "Dipdanda".

Dhano Dhano Pushpo Bhora is the best composition of the Bard," said Nilyotpal Sadhya.

# Artistes perform at the event.

Poet, lyricist, musician and playwright DL Roy is known primarily for his Bengali patriotic plays and songs. His songs, which number over 500, like those of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul

are considered a genre of their own, and are referred to as 'Dwijendra Geeti' (Songs of Dwijendra). He is regarded as one of the most important figures in early modern Bengali literature.



Artistes perform at the event.

**ntv**

08:45 Bangla Feature Film  
09:10 Janar Achhey Bolor  
09:15 Achhey  
06:15 Shubho Shondhya  
09:00 Tomakei khujche Bangladesh

**ETV**  
03:30 Ekushey-er Business  
04:30 Documentary: Jibon  
06:30 Desh Jury Oporashi  
12:05 Ekushey-er Raat

**BANGLAVISION**  
01:05 Bangla Feature Film  
06:05 Ekushey Class-er  
08:15 Bairey  
11:25 Business Vision

**Rtv**  
07:50 Naorajan  
08:15 Oghoton Ghoton  
09:30pm Maku Barar Love

**12:00**  
Shongbad Shongbad  
**12:10**  
Planet of the Apes  
02:15 Armageddon  
04:50 Real Steel  
07:00 Spider-Man 3  
11:00 Spider-Man 3

**HBO**  
11:50 Fast Five  
02:20 Armageddon  
05:20 From Paris with Love  
07:15 Toy Gun  
09:30 Transformers: Dark of the Moon

**StarWorld**  
01:30 Packed to the Rafters  
04:30 Last Resort  
09:30 How I Met Your Mother  
12:00 Last Man Standing  
02:30 Man vs. Wild  
06:30 Wildlife Specials  
08:30 Into the Universe with Stephen Hawking  
10:30 Gator Boys

**DRAMA SERIAL**

ATN BANGLA	Story	BANGLAVISION
08:40pm Shinghar Shukher	09:05pm Long March	
07:50pm Hoy Bebdan Guney	Riv	
	06:05pm Oloshor	
	Deshtu TV	
	07:45pm Sankajhon	
	Maasranga Television	
	08:00pm Hashi Bari	
	CHANNEL 9	

**NEWS BULLETIN**

BTV	Boishakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm.
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.	News (English) at 9am, 6pm.
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.
News (English) at 9am, 6pm.	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.
CHANNEL 11	Rtv
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	Deshtu TV
	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
	Maasranga Television
	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 11pm.

**TALK SHOW**

ATN BANGLA	Muktakab	Boishakhi TV
01:00am Ono Drishti	12:00am Zero Hour	
12:30pm Tanika Kothon	Riv	
	11:30pm Our Democracy	
	Deshtu TV	
	11:45pm Shaig Kaha	
	Maasranga Television	
	CHANNEL 24	
	12:02am Shampaktat	
	12:05am Molyasater	
	Gtv	

The writer is former civil servant, singer, ghazal composer.