07:35 Khelar Mathe

07:45 Ekusher Podaboli

10:30 Drama Serial:

**CHANNEL 24** 

11:30 Bornamalar Michhil

01:00 Live Programme

Music Village

Special Studio 24

Good Morning Dhaka

Shuddho Shobdo Tomay Gaan Shonabo

Drama: Ekhane Poster

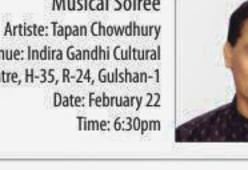




















The recent protests in Shahbagh are a reassurance that the young can still raise their voices for the nation.

#### Rafiq Azad: Liberation War in poetry most notable works -- "Bhat de Sadhuty Middle English School, and haramjada, noile manchitro khabo", developed a keen interest in writing a fiery poem. The words reflect a Rafiq Azad is one of the most prolif from his childhood. The poet said, snapshot of the time and the and dynamic poets of Bangladesh sufferings of the people. "Poetry is my first expression of His strong, intense verses deal with During the period and afterwards political, social and personal issues Azad's poetry changed its course a On completion of schooling, Azad A freedom fighter, he has developed enrolled at Government Saadat bit and became more personal, lyrical and romantic. However, most

a signature style, distinguished by simple language, powerful syntax and subtlety. His poetry reflects his experiences

of the Liberation War (1971). The poet says, "As a freedom fighter, I think the spirit of Liberation War allows me to explore myself with new thought patterns, which reflects in my poems." In general, the expression is bold in his poems with patriotism as the focal point; romance and humanity are the other noticeable aspects of his

Azad was born on January 20, 1943, in the remote area of Guni, under Tangail district. He had his primary education under British

College, Karotia. Nature is another recurring theme in his poems. "I have been a keen observer of nature since childhood. Images of seasona change, sailing boats, paddy fields nourish my soul and inspire me," the poet says. Azad was one of the most

autobiography. His notable works prominent young poets in the postliberation period. Since then, he include "Prokriti O Premer Kabita", began experimentation on language "Asombhaber Payae", "Sahasra and poetic form, where surrealistic Sundar", "Haturier Nichae Jibon", approach was noticeable. He published his first book of poems in "Khub Bashi Durea Nay", "Karo 1973. The following year, Ashuro Paat" and "Pagolar Thekay Bangladesh experienced a famine-Premikar Chithi".

like situation. The crises, prevailing This year, Azad has received across the country at that time, Ekushey Padak for his outstanding contribution to the field of poetry instigated him to write one of his

of his poetry depicts poverty,

urban and rural life as well as

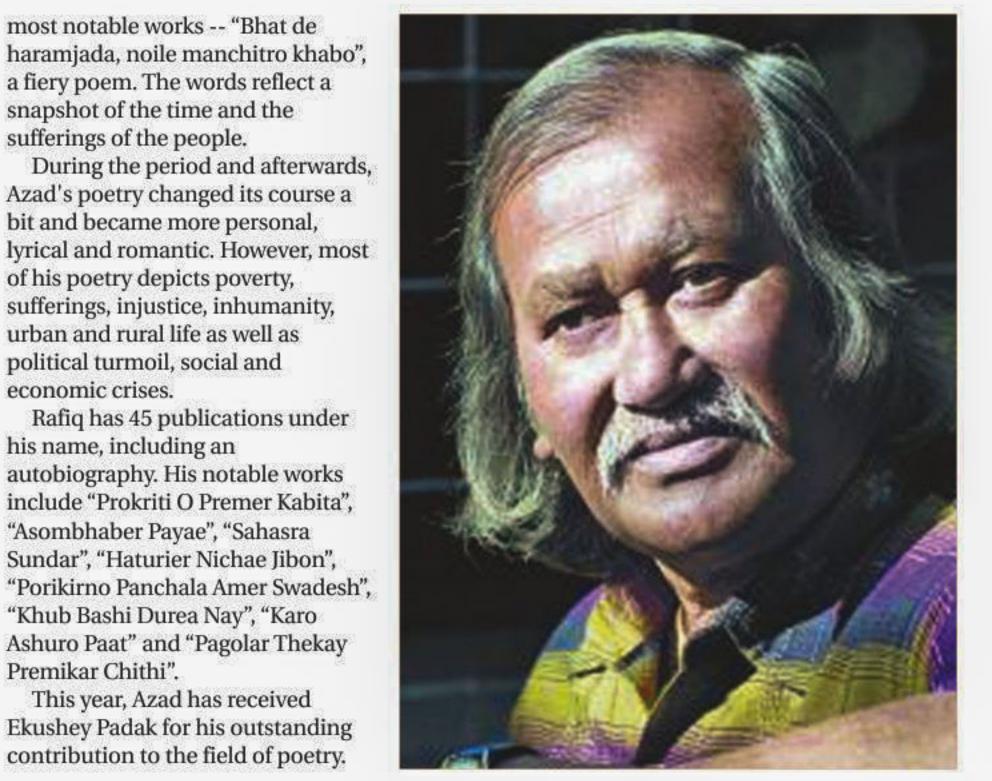
political turmoil, social and

his name, including an

economic crises.

sufferings, injustice, inhumanity

Rafiq has 45 publications under







FAHMIM FERDOUS

1952 was 61 years ago; today's youth i somewhere around the third generation of the Language Movement activists and martyrs. Still, the spirit of the day -- now recognised as the International Mother Language Day by UNESCO -- lives on. How? It is said that one of the biggest powers of any form of art is that it can encapsulate the feelings and thoughts of a person or a community of a particular time, and carry it on for as long as it

"Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano" is undoubtedly the most iconic piece of creativity on the Language movement

Originally written as a poem by Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, it was first put to tur by Abdul Latif, and later given its curren tune by Altaf Mahmud. Abdul Latif's "Ora Amar Mukher Bhasha Kaira Nite Chae", Shamsuddin Ahmed's "Rashtrobhasha Andolon Korili Re Bangalee" and the first song on Ekushey composed by Mosharrafuddin Ahmed on February 24 1952, "Mrittuke Jara Tuchcho Korilo

few of the many powerful songs written and composed at that time. Due to the sensitive nature of the movement and censorship worries in the political context of the country, it was difficult to make a film on it. Young Zahir

Bhasha Bachabar Torey" -- remain just a

Raihan, an active participant of the Language Movement, dodged all of it to direct a striking symbolic depiction of the country's struggles though his film "Jibon Theke Neya"; probhat-feri and other observations of February 21 were also captured on film for the first time

Louho-Kopat", "E Khacha Bhangbo Ami Kemon Kore" and recitals of Tagore's "Udoyer Pothe Shuni Kar Bani" made for one of the most complete films on Bangladesh's spirit of liberation. Countless poems have been written against the backdrop of the movement from the most prolific of wordsmiths to the average amateur, almost everyone who has seriously practiced poetry has

written something on Ekushey. Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury's "Kandte Ashini Fashir Dabi Niye Esechi" was one of the first poems written on the movement. It was banned by then government, and the publisher of the poem was arrested.

"Bornomala, Amar Dukhini through it. The use of songs like "Karar Oi Bornomala" and "February 1969" by Shamsur Rahman, "Amake Ki Malyo Debe Dao" by Nirmalendu Goon, "Chithi" by Abu Zafar Obaidullah and "Shobhyotar Monibondhe" by Syed Shamsul Haq are the other poems that have stood the test of time, and still evoke the spirit of the movement that earned us our right to talk, sing and write



Murtaja Baseer will be honoured by Padatik

Today is 'Amor Ekushey'

also known as International

Mother Language Day. The

alter of the Shaheed Minar

will be covered by mounds

nation pays homage to hon-

**Language Movement martyrs** 

of flowers as the entire

our the spirit of the

# Observing through cultural programmes

On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, the 15th Amar Ekushey Cultural Convention and Bhasha Shainik Shommanona '13 by Padatik Bangladesh will be held today at Ramna Batomul,

This year, language movement veterar and senior painter Murtaja Baseer will be honoured by Padatik Bangladesh.

Noted cultural personality Kamal Lohani will be present as chief guest at the programme. Golam Kuddus, vice president of Sammilito Sanskritik Jote and Hasan Arif, general secretary of Sammilito Sanskritik Jote will be present as special guests at the programme. Noted poets, elocutionists, singers,

and dancers will take part at the cultural programme. The Daily Star is a partner of

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has

programme marking the occasion. The event, to be held at the open premises of the Academy from 4:30pm will feature solo performances by Shahin Samad, Abdul Jabbar and Rafigul Alam among others; choral rendition of songs by a number of groups; recitations by Jayanta Chattapadhyay, Laila Afroze and Dalia Ahmed; group dance performances; cultural performances by ethnic communities and songs in colloquial languages.

### Role of Rabindra Sangeet in inspiring nationalist movements

Both grew up in music-filled households. During their early childhood, they learned the intricacies of melody at home. Today they are considered iconic singers of Rabindra Sangeet and their names have become synonymous with the genre. They are none other than Papiya Sarwar and Mita Huq and they require no further introduction In conversations with The

Daily Star, they provided glimpses of their lives as well as the role of Tagore songs in inspiring the Bangla Language Movement in 1952 and the events that followed

Papiya Sarwar says, "I don't actually remember the exact moment when I started learning music. I was raised in an atmosphere where the air was thick with the sounds of tabla, mouth organ, flute, harmonium and sarod." Her maternal grandfather,

Hafizuddin Ahmed, was a songwriter, composer and singer. "He used to inspire me constantly," Papiya recalls fondly. Later she was taught by maestros like Pandit Dhrubotara Joshi, Kanika Bandyopadhyay, Nilima Sen "I don't know why I chose

Tagore songs. I think I fell in love with the richness and depth of the songs," she says. Papiya's latest album "Purno Chander Maya-e" is an assortment of Tagore's

Mita Huq's response resonate with her predecessors'. With gurus like Wahidul Haque and Sanjida Khatun in the family, Mita learned music at home. Proud mother

talented young Rabindra Sangeet artiste, Mita works on a tight schedule. She performed at the "Bengal ITC-SRA Bangla Gaaner Utshab" held recently in Kolkata (India) and will be completing a CD

On the indirect influence of Tagore on Ekushey February and the struggle for independence, Mita says, "When he was 25 years old, Tagore wrote, 'Amaye bolo na hashitay bolo na'. It was an expression of sadness and disappointment roused by the aftermath of World War and

His shock at the arrogance of the British in ordering the partition of Bengal and the savage repression unleashed on those protesting against the move was vividly portrayed in his novel "Ghorey Bairey". "His work not only inspired

India to win its freedom from the shackles of British imperialism but seeped into the veins of our Language Movement in 1952," Mita says, adding, "When Monayem Khan, the infamous governor of East Pakistan banned Tagore songs, people were aghast, because those people were Bengalis by heart.'

Bangladesher Hridoy Hotey", "Banglar Mati Banglar Jol" and many other songs are etched in the hearts of Bengalis as evidence of the poet's love for Bangladesh, its people

and its language. Both the artistes stressed the need for the media to play a vital role in promoting the rich diversity of Rabindra Sangeet among the younger generation.

## Songs of the masses

#### **Ekushey** epitomised in tunes

FAKIR ALAMGIR

Saying that Bangladesh is a domain opulent with tunes and lush greenery would not be an exaggeration. One gets a demonstration of this if he/she contemplates the innumerable folk tunes baul, bhatiali, bhawaiya, jari, shari, murshidi, marfati and others -- resonating in nature. Since time immemorial, the country's masses have expressed their heartfelt emotions, ideas and aspirations through songs. All these elements and the depiction of our struggles to uphold our identity, culture and values in Bangla songs have made our tunes enduring. Hence Bangla songs have attained a notable significance in music of this part of the

Music has proven itself to be a force to be reckoned with through the ages in all corners of the globe. The oppressed, wronged and ill fated have all found a place in music of and by the masses. In fact, songs have often become instruments to speak out against tyranny, injustice and social evils ("Imagine" and "Give peace a chance" by John Lennon for example; he sang at political protests against the

These songs, popularly known as 'Gano Sangeet or 'songs of the masses', have helped mobilise nations in dire straits. Songs written during, right after and even years after the Language Moveme in 1952, have served as an immense source of inspiration for Bengalis throughout the decades. This article is a homage to all the gifted lyricists, music composers, artistes, namely musicians who have enriched our musical heritage with the timeless 'songs of the masses', specifically songs the Language Movement or Ekushey.

Gano Sangeet made an intense impact at the public processions and movements against the Pakistani oppressors. The then government tried to shove Urdu down Bengalis' throats. Songs like "Ora amar mukher bhasha kaira nitey chaye", written and composed by Abdul Latif, inspired the nation to confront the tyrants and continue the struggle to earn what rightfully belonged to us.

Soon after February 21, at a programme held at the Britannia Cinema Hall, Abdul Latif presented poignant rendition of a song written by Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury. Apparently, Latif noticed the lyrics on a pamphlet. The tune of the song, "Amar bhai-er roktey rangano ekushey February, ami ki bhulitey pari", later modified by Altaf Mahmud, carved an everlasting impression on the Bengali psyche.

"Rastrobhasha andolan korilirey Bangalee" by Shamsuddin Ahmed also became popular. Manirul Islam Manu, Rathindranath Roy, Shimul Yousuf and yours truly have performed the song on several occasions. The upsurge and movement were not limited to establish Bangla as our state language any more, gradually the struggles gained momentum as Bengalis realised the need to become sovereign. And though it all, these 'songs of the masses' have encouraged the morale of the nation.

However, many of us are not familiar with the brilliant songs Indian artiste Hemango Bishwas wrote on our Language Movement. Through the lyrics of the song -- "Shono desher bhai bhogini, shono achanok kahini, kandey bangalee jononi Dhaka shohorey" -- Bishwas makes a remarkable display of his emotional attachment to his Bengali brethren in East Pakistan.

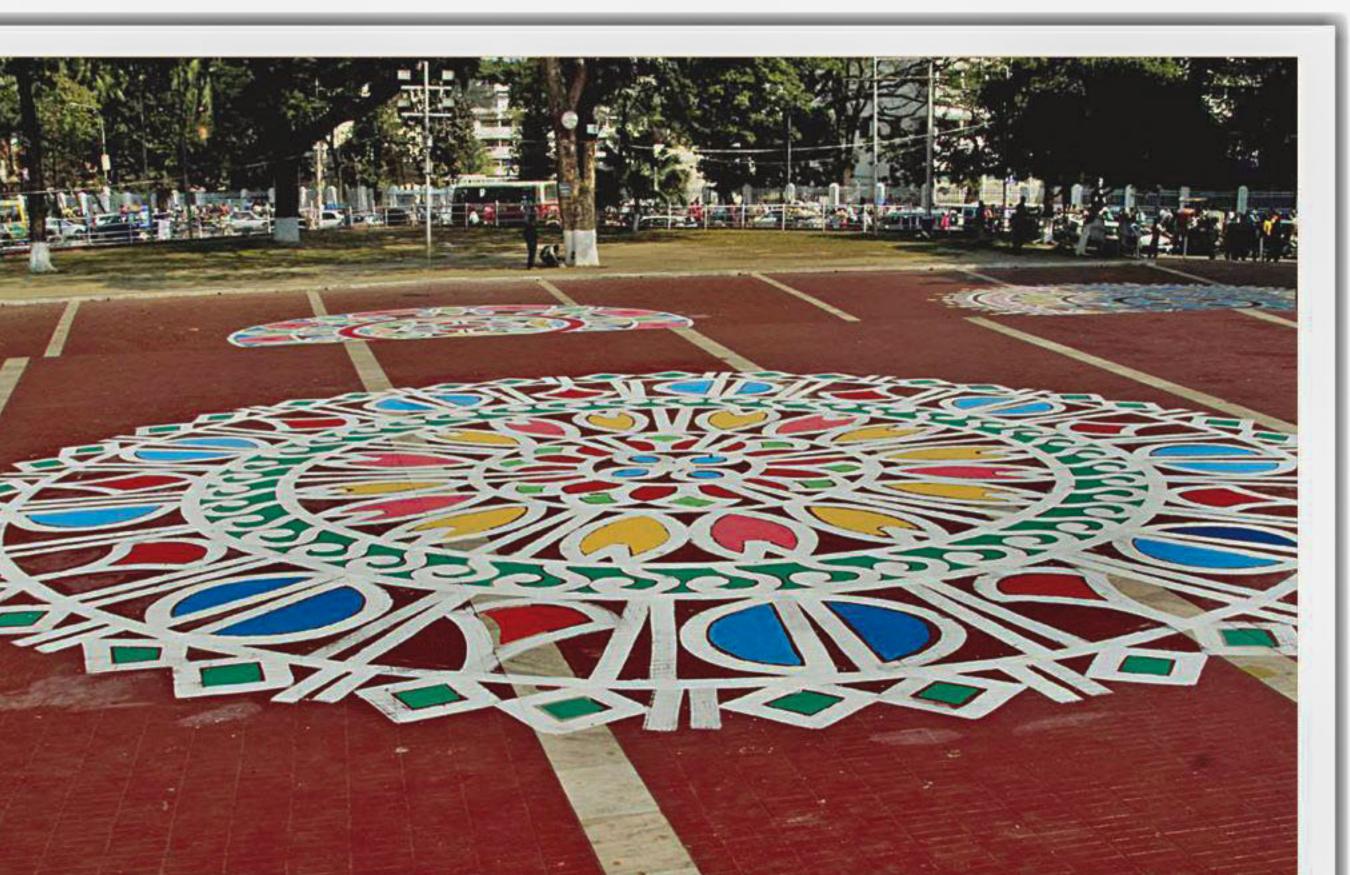
Mosharraf Uddin Ahmed penned "Mrityukey jara tuchho korilo bhasha banchabar torey, aaji shmoriyo tarey", which received accolades for its lyrical depth. Besides these songs, classics like "Moder garob moder asha a-mori Bangla bhasha" by Atulprasad; "Amar shonar Bangla", "Bandh bhengey dao", "O amar desher mati" by Rabindranath Tagore; "Karar oi lauho kopat", "Durgamo giri kantar moru", "Shikol porar chhal" by Kazi Nazrul Islam, rendered with zeal boosted the spirit of the nation.

These and scores of other songs of this genre acted as a crucial force during those days that moulded the nation. These songs continue to inspire the people -- even in these turbulent times.

Translated by Star Arts & Entertainment Desk

-- starting from midnight, across the country. "Alpana" that has a long tradition in our country, is visible once more at the Central Shaheed Minar, adjacent roads and other venues. A number of artists of the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka have adorned the Shaheed Minar area with the intricate artwork. Alpana is commonly used on festive occasions like Ekushey, weddings and national festivals like Pahela Baisakh.

PHOTO: ATL AAKASH



### Caricatures of war criminals in Magura



Amateur artists in Magura have expressed solidarity with the Shahbagh protests in their own innovative way. Artists of the town have done caricatures of war criminals like Ghulam Azam and Abdul Quader Molla and gave those away to protesting groups --"Projonmo '71" and "Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee" in Magura, who have been on the streets from February 7, demanding maximum punishment for war criminals. Artists said they are doing so in a bid to energise the ongoing movement.

Artworks of the cartoonists are a new expression of protest and are boosting the morale of Magura's pro-liberation populace. One of the leaders of "Projonmo '71", Mehedi Hasan Rubel said that the role of local artists have strengthened their ongoing

General Secretary to the Magura district unit of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Biswajit Chakrabarti, echoed the sentiment: "Cultural activists including local elocutionists and artists have played major roles in the ongoing movement in Magura against the anti-liberation

09:05 Drama: Bhasha Boishakhi TV 11:00 Ghor Mon Janala Fox Movies

Tower Heist

Star World Jadur Deshe Drama Serial:

09:30 Packed to the 10:30 Grey's Anatomy 11:30 White Collar National Geographic

#### **NEWS BULLETIN**

Desh TV

News (Bangla) at 12pm, News (Bangla) at 10am, News (English) at 10am. News (English) at 9am, ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11an News (English) at 9am. News (Bangla) at 10am, News (Bangla) at 2pm 9pm, 10:30pm. News (Bangla) at 2pm 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.

News (Bangla) at 1pm,

Drama: Jao Pakh

Maasranga Television

02:30 Wild Discovery 05:30 Medical Anomalies 09:30 Dual Survival