


WHAT'S ON


Book Launch

Book: Abhinatar Rangancho
(Featuring Life and Works of
Ferdausi Majumdar)
Venue: National Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 19; Time: 7pm




Ataur Rahman's Birthday
Celebration

Venue: Seminar Room, National
Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 18
Time: 7pm




Painting Exhibition

Title: Book is Light
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
Venue: Café Gallery, R-72, H-3A,
Gulshan-2
Date: June 1-July 24
Time: 10am-10pm




Tagore Dance Show

Troupe: Nritya Nandan
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium,
Dhanmondi
Date: June 22
Time: 7pm



World Music Day

Organiser: Bangladesh Sangeet
Shommony Parishad & Shilpakala
Academy
Venue: National Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 21; Time: 7pm



Happy Birthday, Ferdausi Majumdar !

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Ferdausi Majumdar is nothing short of a stalwart in Bangladesh's theatre. With countless unforgettable acts in a career spanning five decades, she is still going strong. "Theatre" is celebrating her birthday today by launching a photo album of the artiste's illustrious career, titled "Ferdausi Majumdar: The Thespian's Stage". The Daily Star also caught up with the veteran artiste on the occasion.

You've been on the stage for more than five decades now. How do you reflect on your journey?

Ferdausi Majumdar: The biggest self-satisfaction that I have from this long, rich-with-memories journey is that I am still here on stage at this age. I strongly believe that if you do something with a lot of love, it always gives you a good result in the end.

Did you see yourself here at this point, when you started off with acting?

Ferdausi Majumdar: It was never easy for me growing up; it was a patriarchal family and I was not really encouraged. My brother, Shaheed Munier Chowdhury brought me to the realm of acting, in 1961-62. I didn't have any understanding or knowledge of theatre. But gradually, as time passed by and I acted more in my student days, my love for theatre started to grow. I, Ramendu Majumdar and Abdullah Al Mamun -- along with a few others, started the theatre movement of Bangladesh, and a sense of responsibility came upon us; we nurtured it with a lot of love. But frankly, I never thought I'd get to work so much, be blessed with the love of so many, and still be here -- but like I said, it sort of became like second nature.

How do you think theatre today is different from the early times?

Ferdausi Majumdar : If someone says that theatre is not nurtured and treated with the amount of passion and care today as it used to be, there are valid reasons behind it. At that time, there were not so many groups, there were not so many barriers; those times were more peaceful. Life has become more hectic and complicated now; people have naturally become more mechanical and competitive. Plus, there were not so many formats -- TV serials, package, telefilms and all, so we could put all our efforts into whatever little we did. It's not possible for today's artistes to do things the way we did, but I am



still often amazed by how far theatre has progressed. We used to do it just for the love of it; today, artistes do it as a profession; like it's their job to do. There have definitely been positives; many artistes have emerged and there are more plays, but since life has become so difficult now, it would be foolish to expect of anyone to be dedicated deeply and solely to theatre; despite that, many people are doing exceedingly well.

What is it like to have family members as co-artistes?

Ferdausi Majumdar: I consider myself extremely fortunate on these frontiers. I faced obstructions from my family when I ventured into acting; I thought it would increase when I got married. It didn't; I thought there would be obstacles from the in-laws, but they were supportive and encouraging too. Then I thought when

I'd have a child, maybe there would be another hurdle, but it was the complete opposite. Trope is my inspiration now. Our birth date is the same: 18th (June), and it fills my heart with happiness.

Most memorable characters?

Ferdausi Majumdar : Matborer Meye in "Payer Awaj Pawa Jay" is one of my most special characters; Trope does that character now. Apart from that, Kanduni in "Ekhone Kritodash", Jorina in "Ekhone Dushhomoy" are characters that I cannot forget. But my most memorable character would be in "Kokilara", a two-hour-plus solo act that I do in three parts. And then there's Hurmati in "Shangsaptak" on TV. You see, you do not have to work in a hundred plays. A single character you play can etch your impression in the hearts of people for a lifetime.

Hasan Hafizur Rahman: For the love of language

Hasan Hafizur Rahman was a poet, journalist and critic. He was born in 1932 at his maternal uncle's residence. His ancestral home was in the village of Kulkandi under Jamalpur district. He completed his Bachelors and Masters in Bangla Language and Literature in 1951 and 1955 respectively from the University of Dhaka.



June 15 marked the 81st birth anniversary of the poet. Rahman had a full and diverse professional life. He began his career in 1952 as assistant editor of the weekly Begum. Subsequently he worked for Saogat, Ittehad, Dainik Bangla and others. In 1972, he was elected president of the editorial board of the Dainik Bangla. He was also a Professor of Bangla Language and Literature at Jagannath College, and worked at different missions of Bangladesh abroad.

Rahman started writing while still a student. In 1946, while studying at school, his first short story, "Asrubheja Path Chalte", was published in Saogat. In 1949, the Sonar Bangla published his first poem. During that time, he became associated with the Dhaka Progressive Writers and Artists Association. He actively took part in the Language Movement of 1952, that inspired him to write his famous poem "Amar Ekushey". In 1953, the first compilation work on the Language Movement "Ekushey February" was published under his editorship. He was an associate of Sikander Abu Zafar in editing the literary journal Samakal.

Rahman was involved with several socio-cultural movements. In 1954, he was elected literary secretary of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and edited a monthly magazine Spectra. He was committed to Bengali nationalism and culture. In 1971 he took part in the Liberation War. He was a socially conscious writer, and his writings reflect the hope, suffering and protests of the masses.

Among his significant literary works are "Bangladesher Shadhinota Judhho: Dalilpatra", "Bimukh Prantar", "Arta Shabdabali", "Shokarta Tarbari", "Amar Bhetarer Bagh", "Adhunik Kobi O Kabita", "Sahitya Prasanga" and more.

The poet received several awards for his literary achievements. He died in 1983 at Moscow Central Clinical Hospital.

Compiled by Correspondent

NEWS bytes

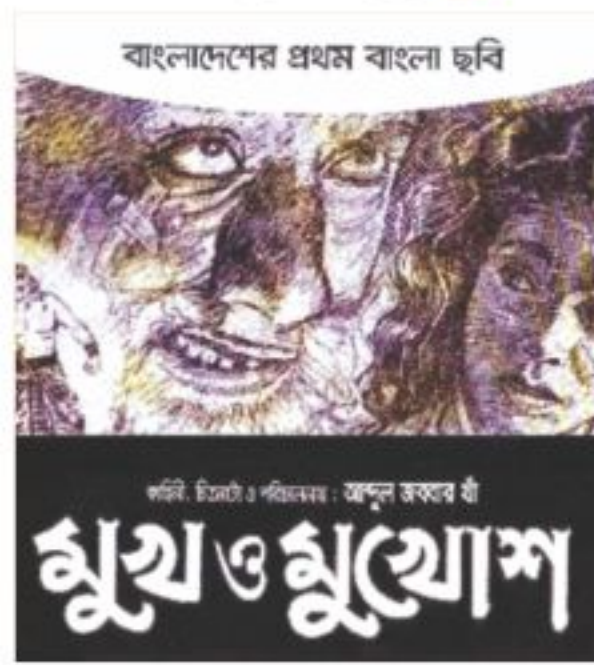
Sabbath back at top of charts with 13

Heavy Metal veterans Black Sabbath have scored their first number one album in the UK for nearly 43 years. Frontman Ozzy Osbourne, guitarist Tony Iommi and bassist Geezer Butler - along with drummer Brad Wilk - beat Liam Gallagher's "Beady Eye" to the top spot with their long-gestating album, "13". The band last topped the charts in 1970 with their second album, "Paranoid". The current album, which reunites three of the four original band members, has taken more than two years to write and record.

The top 5 album chart is completed by Rod Stewart's "Time", Daft Punk's "Random Access Memories" and "Settle" by Disclosure.

Source: BBC

It's True!



The first ever "talkie" film made in Bangla (in erstwhile East Pakistan) was "Mukh O Mukhosh". Abdul Jabbar Khan directed the film that was produced under the banner of Iqbal Films. The film, released on August 3, 1956 simultaneously in Dhaka, Chittagong, Narayanganj and Khulna, made 48,000 Rupees at the box office. The film was three years in the making, while none of the cast had any prior experience in films; they did not take any payment for the film either.

Yasmin Mushtari performs at IGCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted Nazrul Sangeet artiste Yasmin Mushtari performed in a solo musical soiree at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) auditorium on June 14.

The artiste presented an array of Nazrul Sangeet, ghazal's of her Guru Mehdi Hassan and several other songs rendered by music icons.

Yasmin Mushtari set off the soiree with a melodious Nazrul song "Shondhya Godhuli Lagoney". As ode to monsoon, the artiste presented a *kajri* "Shakhi Badhlo Badhlo Jhulonia" and melancholic monsoon melodies -- "Shaon Ashilo Phirey" and "Porodeshi Megh".

Yasmin Mushtari has always done justice to the rendition of Nazrul's raga-based melody and ghazal. This was no exception, as she performed an "Aahir Bhairo" genre "Arun



Kanti Ke Go" and the ghazal genre "E Nohey Bilash Bondhu". June 13 marked legendary singer Mehdi Hassan's first death anniversary. As tribute to her guru, Yasmin Mushtari rendered a ghazal "Ranjish Hee Sahee Dil Hee Dukhane Ke Liye Aa", originally recorded by

the maestro. The artiste also captivated the audience with an Asha Bhosle song "Dil Cheez Kya Hai Aap Meri Jaan Lijiye" (from the film "Umrao Jaan").

Her repertoire included "Gohin Raat-e Ke Ele Ghum Bhangate" (from the play "Aleya"), "Shat Bhai Chompa" (a Bhatiali genre) and "Money Pore Aaj". The artiste wrapped up the soiree presenting a Nazrul Khayal genre "Duur Benu Kunjey".

Yasmin Mushtari's formal training in music started at the early age of six in the Nazrul Academy where she was awarded a gold medal. She has been a regular performer in Bangladesh Betar (Radio) and BTV. She has received several awards for her outstanding contributions to Nazrul Sangeet. She won the Citycell-Channel i best singer award in Nazrul Sangeet in 2006.

IGCC in association with the State Bank of India in Bangladesh and Channel i as media partner has organised the event.

TV WATCH



Tisha (2-L) and Farooki at the red carpet, flanked by the hosts.

Meril-Prothom Alo Purashkar 2012 Red Carpet on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

The finale of Meril-Prothom Alo Purashkar 2012 was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on April 26. This year's event also featured a Red Carpet segment, where stars from different sectors received accolades. This Red Carpet segment of the main programme---"Meril-Prothom Alo Purashkar 2012: Red Carpet" will be aired on Maasranga Television tonight at 11pm.

Anchored by Rumman Rashid Khan and Dipali, the event will feature celebrities such as Ferdousi Rahman, Faridur Reza Sagor, Runa Laila, Alamgir, Masud Ali Khan, Dilara Zaman, Abdul Kader, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Rosy Siddiqui, Aditya Mohsin, Sohana Saba, Faruk Ahmed and others.

Tonight's programme will also feature highlights from the main event.

The main event will be aired on June 21 at 7:40pm.



Adorn Publication has organised a 15-day book fair, titled "Grishher Boi Utshab", at the Seminar Hall of the Central Public Library, Shahbagh. On the occasion, Adorn Publication has organised a discussion and seminar at the main seminar room of Central Public Library. As part of the festival, the publishing house organised a poetry recitation programme on June 13. On the evening, veteran poet Syed Shamsul Haq recited several poems from his "Boishakhey Rochito Pangtimala" while Syed Iqbal painted several images on the themes. At the programme, Dr. Nashid Kamal recited poems from the book "Stanzas of Summer and Spring", translated by Afsan Chowdhury. Syed Zakir Hossain, publisher and chief executive officer of Adorn Publication was also present at the event.

32nd anniversary of Pabna Drama Circle

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A three-day Street Theatre festival marking the 32nd anniversary of Pabna Drama Circle (PDC) concluded on Saturday. The festival was held at the Pabna Town Hall premises.

Prominent dramatist, Professor Moloy Voumik of Rajshahi University (RU) inaugurated the festival that began with a colourful procession and fruit festival.

A discussion was held, focusing on the role of theatre in society. President of the organisation Md. Sirajul Islam chaired the programme, while administrator of Pabna Zila Parishad Md. Saidul Haque Chunnua was the chief guest.

Among others, Professor Moloy Voumik; manager of Square Toiletries Ltd. Md. Abdul Hassan; and secretary of PDC Mostafizur Rahman Russel spoke on the occasion.

The speakers pointed out that theatre plays a vital role in social movements and consequently needs greater patronage.

Twelve plays were staged at the festival with the participation of theatre organisations from Pabna, Sirajganj Bogra and Jessore.

"The plays staged at the festival are a realistic reflection of the social discrimination, injustice, irregularities and corruption in society," said MR Russel.

"Members of the organisation lend a hand to the flood victims, acid victims and more. Pabna Drama Circle leads the social movement for the trial of war criminals both on stage and the roads," said Faruk Hossain Chowdhury, vice president of the organisation.

"Ponchodosh-er Ponchodin" closes



(L) Theatre troupe Shomoy staged its highly acclaimed production "Shesh Songlap" at the National Theatre Hall on Sunday, as part of Nattya Teertha's theatre festival "Ponchodosh-er Ponchodin" at the Shilpakala Academy. The festival wrapped up yesterday with the staging of "Kamola Sundori" by the organiser troupe. (R) Folk-fusion band Joler Gaan also enthralled the audience at the front space of the National Theatre Hall lobby, prior to the play on Sunday.

PHOTO: ATL AAKASH