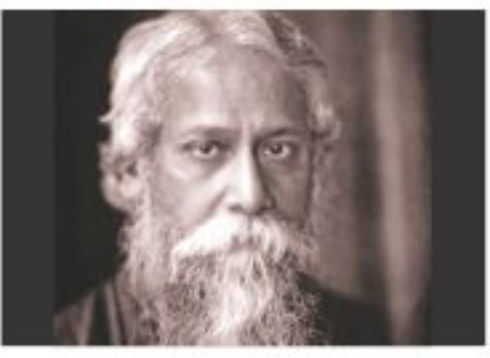


WHAT'S ON

Lyrical drama on Tagore
Title: Phul-er Prem-e Rabindranath
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, Shalabagh
Date: June 21
Time: 6:30pm



Borsha Utshab
Marking Poet Sufia Kamal's Birth Anniversary
Venue: Chhayanaout Auditorium, Dhanmondi
Date: June 21
Time: 6:30pm



Book Launch
Book: Abhinatar Rangamancha (Featuring Life and Works of Ferdousi Majumdar)
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala academy
Date: June 19; Time: 7pm



Tagore Dance Show
Troupe: Nritya Nandan
Venue: Chhayanaout Auditorium, Dhanmondi
Date: June 22
Time: 7pm



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



Transformation of TV plays-- as Atiqul Haque Chowdhury saw it

JAMIL MAHMUD

"Over the years TV plays made on the Liberation War focused on issues such as how the collaborators assisted the Pakistan army, how they tortured the Freedom Fighters and civilians. Rarely did we see TV plays venturing into lesser exposed areas of the subject, like what was the cause behind the war," said veteran media personality Atiqul Haque Chowdhury.

Talking to The Daily Star, he discussed the transformation of TV plays. He also shared his views on the present state of TV plays, which he does not find inspiring, in general.

Chowdhury had been one of the foremost media personalities actively involved with the golden era (from late 1970s to late '80s) of BTV plays. He started as a producer in 1965 and retired as the Deputy Director General of the state-run TV channel. During his tenure, he made over 450 TV plays.

According to Chowdhury, TV plays of that time also focused on social changes and romanticism.

He recalled notable actors, producers, directors and groundbreaking TV plays.

Humayun Ahmed's serials like 'Ei Shob Din Ratri', 'Bahubrihi' and 'Kothao Keu Nei' are noteworthy, he recalled.

"These plays provided authentic portrayals of life. The interrelationship between people, political ideology or philosophy, in fact the whole society were depicted through these TV plays. These plays should be re-telecast," he said.

Chowdhury saw a rapid change in the early 1990s, when producers and directors started to show more interest in 'package' TV plays.

"It is obvious that at present we have to concentrate



on commercialisation but sacrificing aesthetic values cannot be acceptable. We have to create a bond between them through improving our technical skills," he said.

"We had endless enthusiasm to do something for the nation. Sometimes, we worked from dawn to dusk to articulate our untold stories through our works which were blended with arts and aesthetics," reminisced Chowdhury.

Though the current scenario is uninspiring to him, Chowdhury is positive about the future as he sees young

individuals are emerging with more passion and enthusiasm.

"The scene is changing. I feel pleased when I see that youngsters are coming forth with a more positive approach. They are more rational than emotional. I am waiting for that day when our youth will dominate the country from every aspect," concluded Chowdhury.

This interview was published in the Arts and Entertainment of The Daily Star page a few years ago. We reprint the article in the reader interest.

REMEMBERING an icon

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ramendu Majumdar, President of International Theatre Institute (worldwide)

One thing can be said with great emphasis about Atiqul Haque Chowdhury that he was the initiator of remarkable TV plays in Bangladesh. He successfully created his own style with regard to TV plays. Drama is not merely a source of entertainment; it depicts social messages too. Chowdhury's plays upheld voices of society.

He employed much merit and labour while producing a play.

As an individual, Chowdhury was very optimistic. He was a producer of Radio Pakistan, Dhaka in 1962. I was then a university student. Later, he joined the PTV, Dhaka. I had not acted in any of his plays at that time.

On Chowdhury's 80th birth anniversary programme, I jokingly told him that I could still act in any of his plays. A few days later, he cast me in one of his plays titled "Chilekothar Swapno" that aired on Ekushey Television. Such a playwright's demise is undoubtedly a great loss for the theatre and TV media.

Mamunur Rashid, Theatre Personality

Atiqul Haque Chowdhury was an extremely brilliant director and playwright. He was a very good teacher as well. He would always look for new faces -- actors, writers and playwrights -- for his projects. He had a great life force that was rarely found among personalities of his time.

Many artistes and playwrights have established themselves with blessings from Chowdhury. He was always addicted to creating something new. One of his great qualities was that he would lend a ear to every viewpoint.

The newcomers who emerged with Chowdhury's help reached the zenith of fame in Bangladeshi drama. Very few playwrights have the vision to recognise young talents and good intention to give them a platform.

It was a time when the nation was engulfed in disarray and decay. Chowdhury chose drama as a medium to prevent that decay.

Very few people are fortunate like Chowdhury -- to have been able to dedicate a lifetime (60 years) to TV plays.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Nasiruddin Yousuff, Theatre Personality and Filmmaker

Atiqul Haque Chowdhury, a trendsetter of Bangla dramas is no more. A true "gentleman" in all senses, he was jovial and always amicable.

In the 1980s, television plays were so popular that the decade is now considered the "golden era", and Chowdhury was instrumental behind this popularity. He was an insightful man and with his works he addressed the contemporary corruption engulfing the society. Following the Liberation War, the nation was going through a loss of values, which the dramatist clearly depicted through his works. The crises that the society and nation faced were reflected aptly in his works.

He was an admirer of the arts, a teacher, a great producer as well as a dramatist. It was he who inspired me to join television drama; he was my mentor. He directed the first television drama written by Selim Al Deen and was a regular at theatre shows.

A man lives through his works and Atiqul Haque Chowdhury will always live in the audiences' hearts.

Preserving a way of life Indigenous artistes perform to capacity audience



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Indigenous artistes enthralled capacity audience at Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium on June 16 with traditional songs and dance.

They belonged to Garo, Hajong, Cooch, Banai, Dhalu and Khatriya communities of Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Tangail and Netrokona.

Clad in their traditional attire, hundreds of indigenous people also attended a day-long programme organised by Greater Mymensingh Adibasi Unnayan Council (GMAUC).

The programme titled "First Nakma, Goanbura and Panchayat (village heads) Samabesh" with the theme "Traditional adibasi organisations will bring development" was the first of its kind in Mymensingh region. CARITAS Mymensingh Region supported the programme.

The rendition of "mandi" choruses by the Garo artistes featured the history and traditions of indigenous communities. The dance sequences on "Wanna" (harvest celebrations) by Garo artistes and Jhakamari by Hajong artistes focused on traditional indigenous culture.

Earlier, Principal Motiur Rahman, MP inaugurated a colourful rally brought out from local gymnasium premises marking the occasion.

A discussion was also held with State minister for Social Welfare advocate Promod Mankin, MP, as the chief guest.

It's True!



Jessica Alba, considered widely as one of the most gorgeous women to have ever been in Hollywood, had a remarkable childhood. She suffered from partially collapsed lungs twice, had pneumonia four to five times a year, as well as a ruptured appendix. Alba has also had asthma since she was a child, and later admitted that she suffered from obsessive-compulsive disorder. Despite that, she made her first movie appearance (in "Camp Nowhere", 1994) at the age of 13, and graduated high school at 16.

NEWS bytes

Martin Scorsese and David Hockney to be honoured

Film director Martin Scorsese and artist David Hockney are to be honoured by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) later this year. The pair will be honourees at the museum's third annual Art+Film Gala in November, the Hollywood Reporter said.

Scorsese's recognition comes after the director criticised the museum for cutting its weekend screening programme four years ago. In 2009, Scorsese wrote an open letter to museum director Michael Govan, saying he was "deeply disturbed" by the decision to cut the film screenings.

The gala will be co-chaired by actor Leonardo DiCaprio, who has worked with Scorsese on films such as "Gangs of New York", "The Aviator" and "The Departed".

Source: BBC

Shafin Ahmed on Spelling Bee Quarter Final to air tonight

SHAHNOOR RABBANI

With another Quarter Final of "The Daily Star Spelling Bee" airing at 7:50 pm tonight on channel i, prominent musician Shafin Ahmed gives his take on the Spelling Bee and how it has fared this year.

"I think it has done pretty well so far. The kids are very enthusiastic. They love to spell and it shows. I think the quality of their spelling will only get better at this rate."

However, he is quick to add that there is room for improvement, "Looking at the kids in some of the foreign Spelling Bees and seeing how they are spelling words you previously never heard of is amazing! We're not there yet but I'm sure we will, in time."

Shafin goes on to talk about how he always had an inclination for spelling and learning new words from his childhood. "My maternal grandfather, a lawyer, was instrumental in helping me learn new words when I was



The rock star handling spelling matters.

growing up. Whenever I came across a word that I was not familiar with, he'd tell me to look it up in the Chamber's dictionary. Going through the pages and learning how to decipher a dictionary helped me remember the spellings of the words. Nowadays, I think that is something that is overlooked due to the advent of the internet and search engines."

Although we are in the age of the internet and computers, Shafin feels that book reading is still very important. "Even though I am from a Bengali medium background, I always had a liking for English and would come top in English in class. Reading the newspapers and watching the news. I'd have to say that my English is mostly self taught."

Artistic extravaganza Works of Md Mainuddin on display at Dhaka Art Centre

FAYZA HAQ

The drawing extravaganza by Md. Mainuddin, occupied many rooms of the Dhaka Art Centre. The display continued till June 17.

In one of the drawings the artist shows a dotara artiste instructing his young son who is clad in a multi-coloured striped shirt.

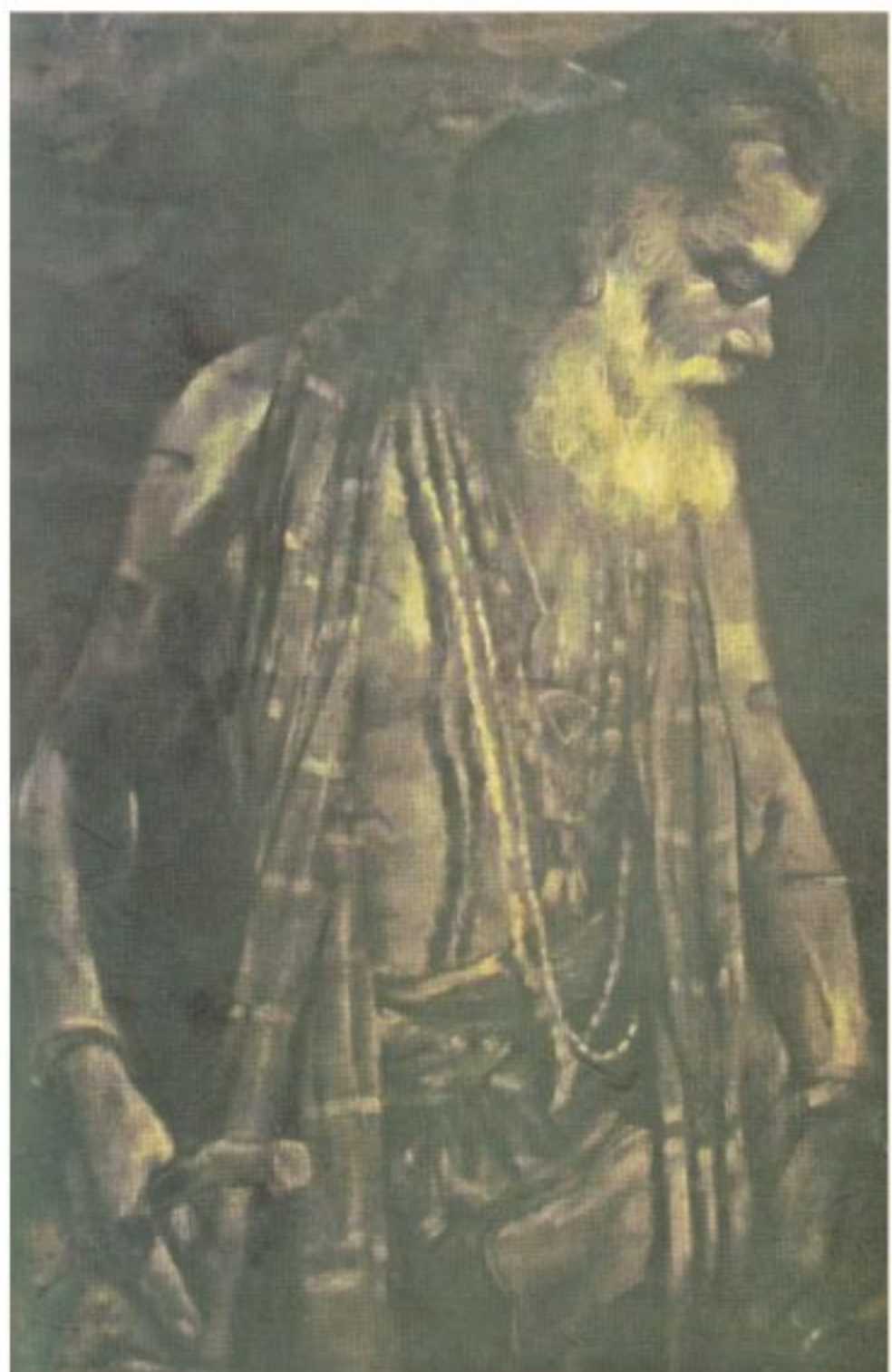
In another drawing we see a widow with a nose ring. Her hair is askew. She wears a flimsy white blouse and sari as protection. In "Waiting for Last Judgement" the subject has a flowing beard a walking stick in hand and many rows of beads around his neck. The white drapery is for effect. The drawings are all in black and umber, with a smattering of colour. In 2004, Mainuddin got the Best Award from the Fine Arts Department DU for his portrait on old dying men.

For the charcoal on paper, 76 cm by 106 cm is a long self portrait of the artist with a

head band like the Caesars from Roman times. There are curtains at both ends of the enormous drawing. Above his head are two caged vultures, to bring in the elements of horror. He has used English newspapers in the background over which he has painted. He has done the drawing with charcoal and at times has applied light acrylic colours.

The theatre curtains surround the vast scenario. A woman is wearing a banner from the road, crying for clothes, food and shelter. People are seen in front trying to drown their sorrows in music. Women akin to sex-workers, live from hand to mouth. The gathered children are not drawn by the music.

An MFA student, Mainuddin has received the Aminul Islam Scholarship thrice. He won an award in the 5th South Asian Youth Festival in 2011. He also won a Grand Prize from the Shilpakala Academy and the Rashid Chowdhury Smriti Parishad in 2010.



An artwork by Md Mainuddin.

Shahid Rafiq Smriti Pathagar anniversary celebrations

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Shahid Rafiq Smriti Pathagar, a library in Manikganj established in memory of Language Martyr Rafiq Uddin Ahmed, celebrated its 9th anniversary. On the occasion a discussion was held at Sangskritik Biplobi Sangha auditorium. Anfa F Khan, executive member of the organisation, presided over the discussion. Kollo Mostofa, and Prof Nasim Akhter Hussain addressed the gathering.

The discussants protested against the government's move to set up a power station at the Sundarbans which would lead to the destruction of the mangrove forest.

Bruce Dickinson takes a massive leap on stage, as his band Iron Maiden plays in front of a 90,000-strong crowd as the headliners of day two of the Download Festival at Bonnington, one of England's biggest annual rock music conventions. The other two headliners of the three-day festival -- from June 14-16 -- were Slipknot and Rammstein.

