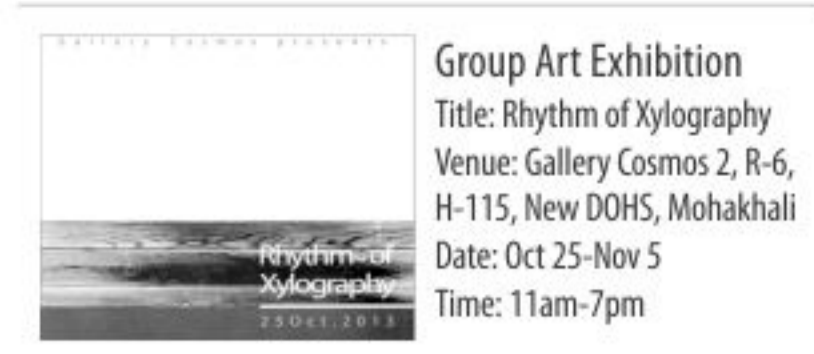


## WHAT'S ON



**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Rhythm of Xylography  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos 2, R-6,  
H-15, New DDHS, Mohakhali  
Date: Oct 25-Nov 5  
Time: 11am-7pm



**Classical Music Workshop and Film Screening**  
Marking Bengal Classical Music Fest 2013  
Venue: Bengal Club, Dharmad  
Date: Sep 26-Nov 16  
Time: on every Thursday (3-5pm) & Saturday (10am-12pm)



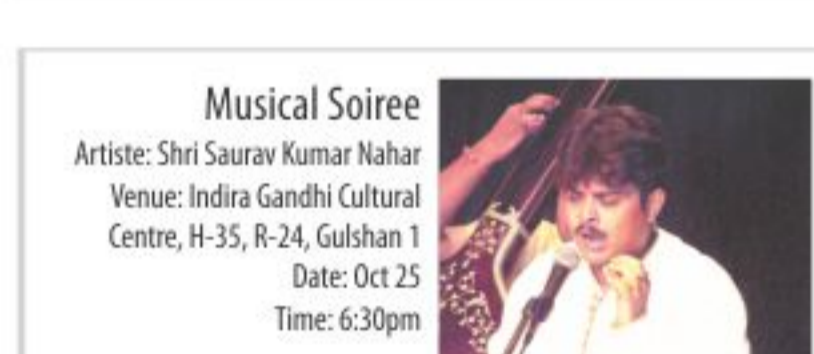
**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Artist: Shobkon Nahar Nooshin  
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26  
Mirpur Road, Dharmad  
Date: Oct 25-Nov 7  
Time: 3pm-9pm



**Group Exhibition**  
Title: Unity of Souls  
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts,  
Al Heights, Cha-72/10, Progoti  
Shorani  
Date: Sep 27-Oct 26  
Time: 10am-6pm



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Artist: Jamil Akbar Shamim  
Venue: Institute of Asian  
Creatives, Gulshan-2  
Date: Oct 4-Oct 26



**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Shri Sauran Kumar Nahar  
Venue: Indian Gandhi Cultural  
Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan I  
Date: Oct 25  
Time: 6:30pm



**Dance Performance**  
Title: Champabati  
Troupe: Shadrona  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall,  
Shilpakal Academy  
Date: Oct 25; Time: 6:30pm



**Urban Youth Festival II**  
Organiser: Goethe-Institut Dhaka  
Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10,  
Rd 9, Dharmad  
Date: Oct 24-31  
Time: 11am-6pm

## NEW RELEASES



**Cholo Banchi**  
Solo album  
by Samina  
Chowdhury  
Source: Laser Vision



**Aar Tomake**  
Solo album  
by Topu  
Source: Agniaveena



**Jhograr Gaan**  
Duet album  
by Asif and  
Nancy  
Source: ARB  
Entertainment



**Na Bola Kotha 2**  
Solo album  
by Elyas  
Hossain  
Source: CD  
Choice

# The legend never dies

## Manna Dey passes away

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Legendary playback singer Manna Dey, whose millions of voice was engraved in the hearts of millions of music lovers in the Indian subcontinent, died yesterday (October 24) after a prolonged illness.

Dey, 94, who was admitted to speciality hospital Narayana Hrudyalaya in the southern Indian city of Bangalore five months ago for respiratory problems, died of a cardiac arrest at 3:50am local time, a senior doctor at the hospital said.

The singer's daughter Sumita Deb and son-in-law Jnanranjan Deb were by his bedside when the end came, his family said. He is survived by two daughters one of whom is based in the US. Dey's wife Sulochana died last year.

Manna Dey was taken to the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital some days ago to be treated for respiratory illness and renal failure. He had been in and out of hospital the last few months and was put on dialysis in September.

Born Prabodh Chandra Dey in 1919 in Kolkata and known by his nickname Manna, he sang in many Indian languages including Hindi, Bengali, Assamese, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Gujarati, Punjabi and Rhojpur.

Trained in classical songs and having recorded over 3,500 songs in a number of languages, he cast magic on generations of listeners with his romantic ballads, intricate raga-based songs, qawwalis and fast-paced modern numbers, lending his voice to a number of Hindi and Bengali



Hain Imaan Mera Yaar Meri Zindagi" ("Zanjeer") and "Kasme Vadey Pyar Wafa Sab" ("Upkaar"), among others. Manna Dey gave some of his best songs for Raj Kapoor in films like "Chori Chori", "Mera Naam Joker", "Shree 420" and even "Bobby".

Among some of his memorable songs are intensely romantic tracks like "Kyon Dipak Jalta Hai" (film "Saara Akaash") and "Pyaar Hua Iqar Hua" ("Shree 420").

If melancholy had to be brought in a song, Manna Dey was perhaps unmatched and the best examples of this are "Kasme Wadey

"Pyar Wafa" and "Jeevan Sey Lambey Hain Bandhi" (film "Aashirvaad" starring Ashok Kumar).

As Manna Dey leaves behind his millions of fans, his songs from all genres will remain etched in our hearts for ever.

One of the finest songs rendered by Manna Dey was in Bangla which was released several years ago—"Shey Amar Chhoto Bon". The story goes that when Dey was requested to sing the song at a public function in West Bengal, tears welled up in his eyes.

Now that Manna Dey is no more with us, one of the most appropriate tributes to him would be to recall the last few lines from his song

"Maat Sneho Kakey Boley Janina", which says "Taar Gaan Themey Gechey, Nei Srota Ar / Aami Eka Boshay Achi Smriti Niye Taar." Manna Dey may have stopped singing, but his voice echoes on.

film stars including Uttam Kumar and Rajesh Khanna.

The most distinctive feature of Dey was the ease with which he modulated his voice according to the thematic requirement of a particular word or line containing the emotions. It seemed like the rising and falling gentle waves of the backwater of a sea.

His popular Bangla tracks include film and non-film numbers like "Aami Jay Jolsha Chorey" and "Aami Jamini Tumi

Shoshi Hey" in the film "Antony Fimgi", "Aami Kon Kotha Jey boli", "Ora Jey Ja Boley Boluk Na" (Nishi Padma) and among his memorable Hindi numbers are "Poocho Na Kaisa Maine" (film "Meri Surat Teri Aankhen"), "Ae Meri Zohra Jabeen" ("Waqt"), "Zindagi Kaisi Hai Paheli" ("Anand"), "Yeh Dosti" ("Sholay") and "Ek Chatur Naar" ("Padosan") and "Laga Chunari Mein Daag" ("Dil Hi Toh Hai"), "Meri Naina Talash Karey Tujhey" ("Talash"), "Yaari

## REFLECTIONS Remembering a true stalwart

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alauddin Ali, composer

Manna Dey had the blessings of the Almighty; he sang till an age that most artists cannot continue up to. He sang countless classics in a number of languages, and is one of the greatest artists of all time from the sub-continent. In the sixties and seventies, we would wait for his new songs during Puja, and he would never disappoint. He was also a very talented composer himself, and was very choosy about lyrics. I was fortunate enough to have him voice a song under my direction for a film, directed by Ashoke Ghosh. We recorded it in Usha Uthup's Kolkata studio called Vibrations, and he recorded with a lot of integrity. Even when I and the director okayed the song, he would re-do parts that he was not completely happy with. While his demise is a colossal loss, I believe that every musician - established or budding - has a lot to learn from him and his music.

Rafiqul Alam, singer

Manna Dey is the singer of singers. His musical life is as good as poetry. Music may go into oblivion, but not poetry! One who practices Manna Dey's music automatically becomes his disciple. The day I try to sing Manna

Dey's songs, I don't need to have my rewaz (practice). He is the only Bengali singer who had started his musical career in a non-Bengali environment (Bombay). He is a lone singer who had salvaged modern Bengali songs in the days of crisis, despite being stationed outside Calcutta (now Kolkata). He was 94, but his songs will live for thousands of years. Manna Dey listened to one of my records of the song "Ek Hridoyhinar Kachhey Hridoyer Daam Ki Achhey" (recorded in 1978). He then made his friend, lyricist Pulak Bandyopadhyay, listen through Satyen Sen, an assistant director of legendary filmmaker Sayajit Ray. Pulak Bandyopadhyay took the line in his heart and composed a song that had the same line "Haye Rey Haye Hridoyhinar Kachhey" for Manna Dey. Manna Dey visited Bangladesh five times. We met several times at renowned composer Satya Saha's residence. Prior to that, we, along with Manna Dey performed together in a concert for the refugee at Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata, during the War of Liberation in 1971. I also met the legend in Bangladesh Biman that he preferred to travel on our way home.

Tapan Mahmood, singer

Manna Dey was a legend. I cannot recall of anyone else who has enriched Bangla music the way he has. He lived a long life, and he gave his all to Bangla music. Millions

of listeners of Bangla music are today equally hurt at his demise. It was remarkable how he influenced artists across generations with his music. Our previous generations sang his songs, we did too, and so did a few successive generations. And I think even today's generation of singers listened to his songs growing up, and were in some way inspired.

Tapan Chowdhury, singer

The demise of the legendary singer Manna Dey is a great loss for us all. As long Bangla music persists, the songs of Manna Dey will remain forever in everyone's hearts. Manna Dey was an ambidextrous singer. He made a mark in every genre of music: be it for classical music, Hindi Bangla film songs and indeed for adhmik songs. Although we were aware of his ailing health, yet our hearts are pain-stricken at the death news of the artiste. The great loss or his absence from the music scene can never be replaced. I personally met him many times. The music-loving people living across the globe must remember the maestro forever as his contributions to music remain unparalleled. Through listening to Manna Dey songs, I have learnt to understand the multifaceted expressions of love. Manna Dey recorded many songs based on almost all the moods of emotions of love. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

## Ephemeral Songs of Fall

TULIP CHOWDHURY

Fall holds sweet music and colourful changes in nature in Amherst, Massachusetts. This season, like a fleeting phase of weather, comes with whispers of winter and sighs of the fading summer. But the short time it stays with us makes it all the more attractive. Like the lightning that strikes us with its spark of light fall dazzles us to be swiped away under the snow and cold of deadly winters that New England usually weathers. People here are busy paying homage to arts and music in this season, for those long winter months are for more of fire and coffee by the hearth.

Like the sun that casts its bright rays before setting Kath Bloom and Tom Hamfeld held an evening of enchanting songs before cold days will start keeping us in. The event took place at Food for Thought Books shop. Kath, an American singer and songwriter was on a tour with Tom, the visual artist, musician, children's performer and a teacher. The evening was packed with people from all walks of life. Students, faculty members and local residents were entertained with songs of nature and romance. Kath's songs like,

"There's a wind that blows in from the north,

And it says that loving takes its course. Come here. Come here. No I'm not impossible to touch, I have never wanted you so much. Come here. Come here. Have I never laid down by your side? Baby, let's forget about this pride. Come here. Come here..."

Tom Hanford's song "If you would be mine" touches the heart for it's a song that speaks of a lonely heart loving a woman who is not his but he wants her even at moments when the other man loves her just a little less. Both had plenty of songs



dedicated to nature. Kath and Tom used guitars and the mouth organ simultaneously when they sang.

Poetry readings are frequent events this season. September was the time for Amherst Poetry Festival, a weeklong poetry reading around the town. UNIFY, an organization working for global peace held a cultural evening on September 20th in which along with Camilla and Tim, I was fortunate to read some of my own poems. Camilla was the voice of the youth with her poems of young voices asking questions to the White House on present economic crisis in the USA and indigenous issues.

Rao's Café, hosting its monthly poetry evenings had four poets reading for the month of September. Here Paul Jackmauh, the organizer of the poetry evenings read his poems along with Snowy, Tulip and Katy. Snowy began her poems with the first one cursing a betrayed love, her life story. Perhaps poetry and cursing usually do not complement each other but that was the charm of living in this land: America, the land of the free! If love hurts, why can't you put that into poems? Poems are the inward voices, happy or sad.

Fall is not only about music and poetry

but it is also the season when people hit the streets with their bikes. You can see bikers of all kinds, usually with bandana on their heads enjoying the chilly wind cutting through their bodies as they race down highways. These days I cannot walk outside without some music with every step. The fallen leaves pile the ground and with music at every step. It goes "crunch, crunch... crunch..." fast or slow depending on how I walk.

The bees are busy with their last buzzing while collecting the fast drying nectar. Squirrels scurry here and there, nuts in their mouths and give off short staccato sounds when disturbed by human encroachers. The crickets having droned gustily for the summer now sing with a laziness that comes with winter's approaching cold. And the migrating geese honk loudly as they fly away to warmer lands. Some birds around the garden continue to amuse me with their cheery songs, only they wake up late these days for the mornings are so cold and foggy! And I hum my favorite Tarega song to fall, "Sharoto alo'r komolo bon-e... Bahiro hoye..."

Tulip Chowdhury writes fiction and is a poet.

## NEWS bytes

Unheard Bowie radio show aired on BBC



A previously unheard radio show recorded by David Bowie to promote his album "Pin Upr" is to be broadcast for the first time in 40 years. The 15-minute mock radio show, made in 1973, was aired on BBC Radio 6 Music on Wednesday. The show featured five tracks from the covers album that features Bowie and Twiggy on the sleeve.

The recording was discovered by Nigel Reeve, who oversees Bowie's back catalogue.

David Bowie broke a 10-year silence this January, releasing a new single, "Where Are We Now", completely out of the blue. It was the first sign of his 24th studio album "The Next Day", recorded in secret over two years with long-time producer Tony Visconti.

SOURCE: BBC

# Shamsur Rahman's 84th birth anniversary observed



Muhammad Samad speaks at the programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 84th birth anniversary of poet Shamsur Rahman, Jatiyo Kabita Parishad and Shamsur Rahman Smriti Parishad jointly organised a programme on October 23 at TSC (Teacher-Student Center), University of Dhaka. The programme featured a discussion, poetry recitation and musical soiree.

Professor Anisuzzaman, president of Shamsur Rahman Smriti Parishad, presided over the programme. Poets Habibullah Shirazi, Muhammad Samad, secretary of Shamsur Rahman Smriti Parishad; Belal Chowdhury, essayist and publisher Mofidul Haq, artist Qayyum Chowdhury, theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar spoke on the occasion. Golam Kuddus, vice-president of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, was the anchor of the programme.

The discussants spoke on the life and contributions of Shamsur Rahman. The speakers said that Rahman's poetry documented historical and political episodes in our country. His poems are distinguished for their highly expressive and communicative, poignant and symbolic traits. For inspiration, Rahman veered towards patriotism, political ups and downs and common peo-

ple's life, they added.

Belal Chowdhury said, "Rahman was very reserved, soft spoken and belonged to an altogether different world. He was always against communal force and religious bigotry."

Habibullah Shirazi said, "His works (both poems and essays) highlighted the needs and issues faced by the masses and their way of life."

Muhammad Samad said, "Rahman's poems are courageous; patriotism and political ambience recurrently got the focal point. His protest against religious intolerance was reflected both in his poetry and essays."

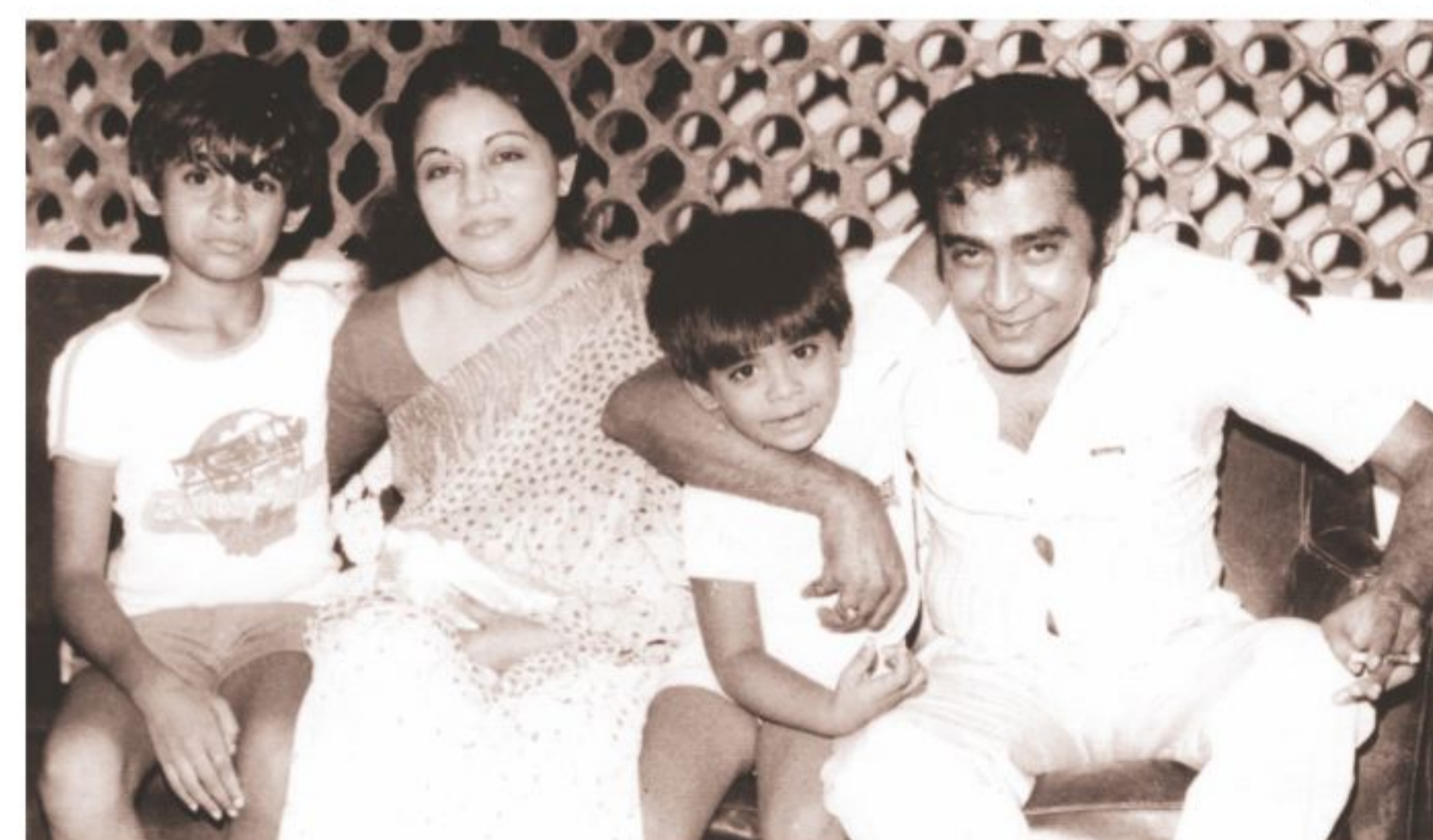
Ramendu Majumdar said, "His poems and essays motivated people during historic movements. His immense contribution to Bangla poetry during the Liberation War is really praiseworthy. He was mainly recognised for his choice of words and phrases."

After the discussion, poets Rabiul Husain, Kazi Rozi, Kamal Chowdhury, Anisul Haque, Deepita Rahman recited poems on Shamsur Rahman. Eloocutionsists Dalia Ahmed, Laila Afroz and Rafiqul Islam recited poems of Shamsur Rahman.

Noted singers Sujit Mustafa, Yakub Ali Khan and Abida Rahman also performed at the event.

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

# Jitu Ahsan on Syed Ahsan Ali Sydney



Little Jitu (2-R) with his Ahsan senior, in a family portrait.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Syed Ahsan Ali Sydney was one of the most popular actors of his time. The man who entertained audiences on small screen with his powerful performances, died on February 14, 2002. Son of the legendary artiste, Jitu Ahsan -- a TV actor himself -- reminisced on his father in a conversation with The Daily Star.

"Me and my father were very close; I have many fond memories of him."

"I arrived in the acting arena in the footsteps of my father. In 1982, I made my debut in a TV play where I played the role of my

father's youngest son. Later, I worked in numerous plays with him."

"I worked in a short film 'Lal Balloon' with him, along with the play 'Khela Bhang' in 1996, when I was quite young. I was always worried of watching my plays in front of him, fearing of his criticism. He always wanted to see me at my best. Once while he was seriously ill, he watched me act in the play 'Joar Bhata' directed by Abdullah Al Mamun. He did point out a mistake and suggested how I could improve my performance."

"He was a large-hearted person, and very open minded too. I was greatly influenced by

his personality. It is only after his demise that I felt he had been like a towering figure for me. I could easily share everything with him; he would always listen patiently."

"During my childhood, it was fixed that we would all visit Cox's Bazar every winter. Accordingly, along with several other families we took our car for a short visit to Cox's Bazar every winter, and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves."

"Once, abba was in Kolkata on his birthday. I sent him a birthday card at the address. On his arrival, he exclaimed his joy of getting the card as the most precious gift."

"He enjoyed treating people and had meals with family members and had a lot of fun."

"It was about 20 years ago when he celebrated Pahela Baishakh at our home for the first time. He invited all close friends and relatives on the occasion and at the same time asked them to bring a dish. We had a great time."

"He had been ailing for a long time, when he breathed his last in my presence. I found him sleepy as he wanted to talk to me and placed his head on my lap. After a few moments, he passed away. I feel somewhat fortunate I was near him in his last moments."



# Putul's first love letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Putul is a popular TV actress who won the National Film Award for her role in the movie "Aguner Poroshmoni" directed by Humayun Ahmed. The noted artist recently confided in this correspondent about the excitement of getting and writing her first love letter:

"Falling in love is universal. It is rare to find someone who has never experienced this emotion at least once in his or her life. However, I think most people have very little experience of writing a love letter. In fact the letter may or may not be sent to the loved one."

"As a student of class six at Gazipur Shaheed Smriti School, I often found love letters in my book stating, 'I love you'."

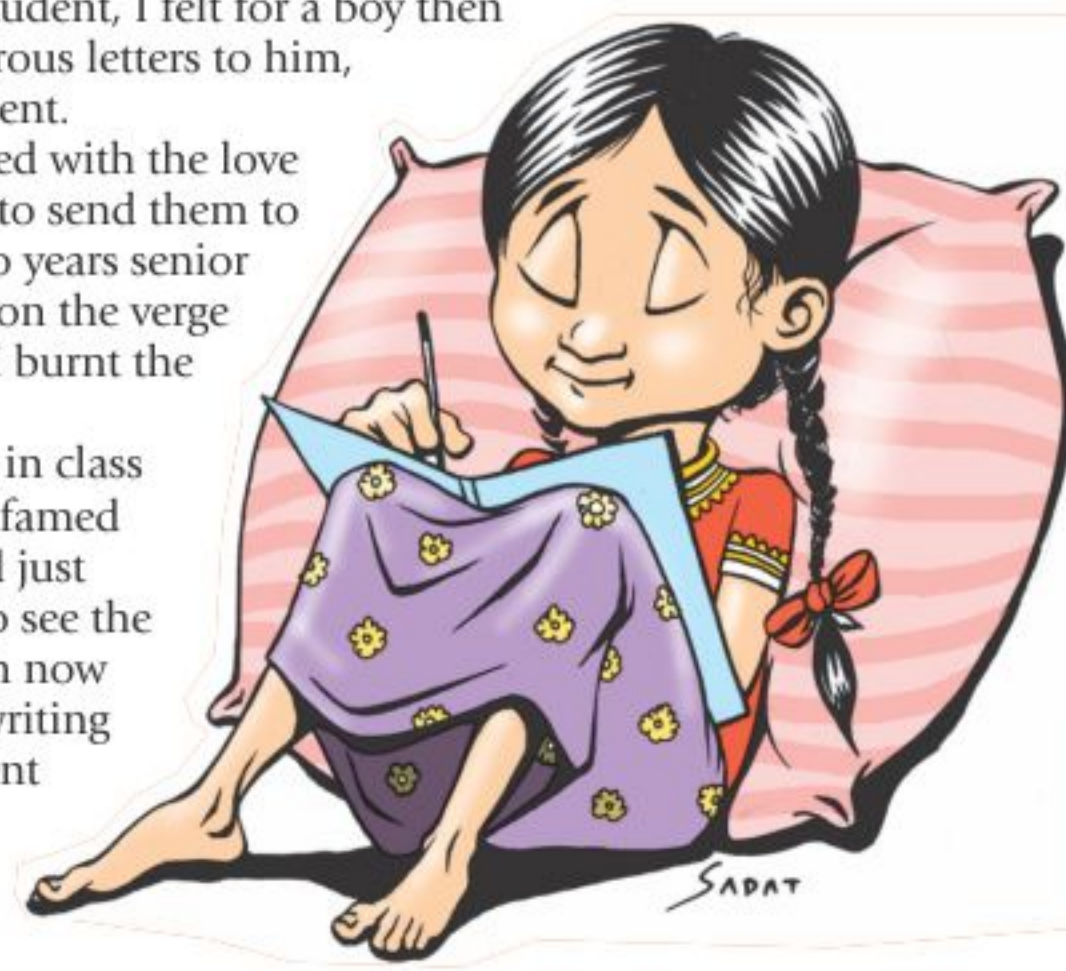
"Later, I noticed the same words on the blackboard which was really embarrassing. What made it worse was that I could not share my discomfiture with anyone."

"One day at assembly in school, the headmaster and assistant headmaster punished a student. Eventually, I learnt that the boy concerned was the one who had placed the love letter in my book and written the words on the blackboard. That saved me from this uncomfortable situation."

"The following year, I got admission at Joydebpur Government Girls' School. While still a class eight student, I felt for a boy then and secretly wrote numerous letters to him, though they were never sent."

"My diary was crammed with the love letters, but I never dared to send them to that person, who was two years senior to me. Later, when I was on the verge of becoming a teenager, I burnt the letters."

"When I was studying in class nine, I fell in love with a famed author whose book I had just read. I was very excited to see the writer face to face. I laugh now as I recall those days of writing love letters never to be sent and receiving replies from unknown persons."



SOURCE: BBC