



Brian Johnson receives honorary doctorate

Vocal of AC/DC, Brian Johnson has received an honorary degree from Northumbria University. The 67-year-old, who was born in Dunston, Gateshead (UK), was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music for his "inspirational" achievements.

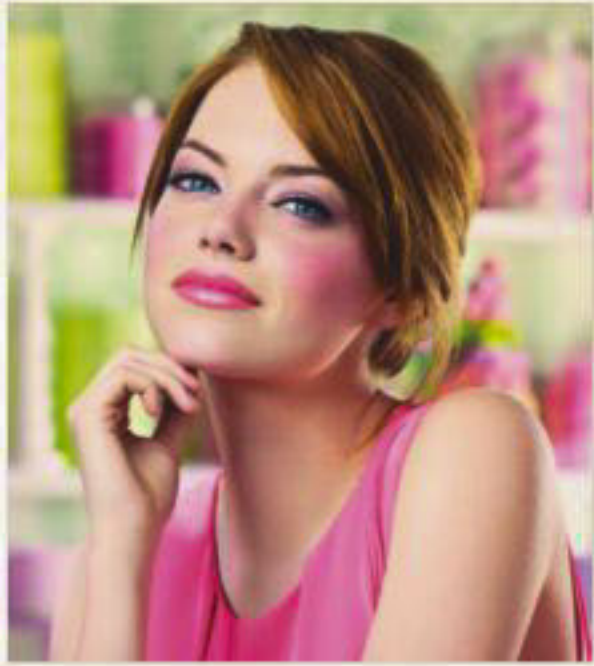
He began singing in a church choir in Gateshead, before making his name with Tyneside band Geordie in the 1970s. He joined Australian-based rockers AC/DC in 1980 after the death of the band's original singer Bon Scott.

AC/DC remains one of the world's most successful rock bands, having sold an estimated 150 million albums. The group's recent Black Ice tour was the fourth biggest-grossing of all-time, making about \$440m.

AC/DC formed in Australia in 1973 and their biggest-selling record was 1980's "Back In Black" - the first to feature Johnson.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



US actress Emily Jean 'Emma' Stone, as a teenager, gave a PowerPoint presentation to her parents, set to the Madonna song "Hollywood", to convince them to let her move to California for an acting career. There was already a listing for an 'Emily Stone' when she registered for the Screen Actors Guild, so she chose 'Emma' as her stage name. She first chose 'Riley Stone' as her stage name, but after guest-starring on the TV show "Malcolm in the Middle", she decided that she was more comfortable with 'Emma', a nickname that her mother had given her.

Divine melodies, unbound devotion

Kazi Nazrul Islam's Hamd, Naat and Islamic songs in focus



ZAHANGIR ALOM

National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam left a diverse musical legacy. His outpouring of spiritual passion was evident in the composition of timeless devotional genres: be it Hamd, Naat and Islamic songs or Shyama Sangeet, Kirtan and Bhajan is evocative of submission to the Almighty. Nazrul composed the songs of the human spiritual quest irrespective of religion, caste and creed.

Nazrul's song "O Mon Ramzaner Oi Rojar Sheshe" always invokes the Holy Eid-ul-fitr spirit in Bangalee life, while "Masjideri Pashe Amar Kabor Diyo Bhai" speaks of the poets desire to listen to Azaan (the call for prayers) even from his grave.

His composition of Hamd, Naat and Islamic songs are many. "Ami Jodi Arab Hotam", "Bishwa Dulali Nabi Nandini", "Bokkhe Amar Kaba'r Chhobi", "E Kon Modhur Sharab Dile", "Hey Modinabashi Premik", "Hey Priyo Nabi Rasul Amar", "Khodari Premer Sharab Piye", "Mohammad Mor Noyonmoni", "Mohammad Nam Jotoi Jopi", "Moru Shahara Aji Matoara", "Naam Mohammad Bol Re", "Taufiq Dao Khoda Islam-e" are such examples.

Noted Nazrul sangeet artistes MA Mannan and Yasmin

Mushtari shared their thoughts on Nazrul's devotional lyrics with The Daily Star. Excerpts:



MA Mannan

It is really astounding to fathom how Kazi Nazrul Islam composed such a wide variety of devotional songs that equally moved people of both Muslim and Hindu communities. The hymns that state the accolades of the Almighty are Hamd while the numbers that eulogise Prophet Muhammad SM (PBUH) are Naat-e-Rasul. The genres are generally rendered without the accompaniment of any instrument.

The numbers -- "Allah Amar Probhu", "Ei Shundor Phul Shundor Phol" are Hamd while the compositions "Tribhuboner Priyo Mohammad", "Tauhid-er-i Murshid Amar Mohammad-er Naam", and "Tora Dekhe Ja Amina Mayer Kol-e" are Naat-e-Rasul. Nazrul's creation of Islamic songs always stirs our

spiritual passion, in a sense that his composition of Shyama Sangeet, Bhajan and Kirtan evokes devotional passion among Hindu believers.

Nazrul is a symbol of humanity, a great human soul. It's a wonder that he enriched almost every aspect of Bangla music. The lyrics and tune of Nazrul songs -- "Saharate Phutlo Re Phul", "Mohammad Naam Jopechhili Bulbuli Tui Agye" and "Amina Dulal Nache Halimar Kol-e" -- have a soothing effect that moves everyone. Many mistakenly incorporate Nazrul's ghazal compositions with his devotional songs. A ghazal rather represents all the forms of higher love, either human or spiritual.



Yasmin Mushtari

Nazrul sang for mankind. He sang of their desire for embracing eternity or the Ultimate (Creator). Our nation includes people of different religions,

castes and clan and Nazrul tried to unite all through his songs. His songs impartially appease souls of both Muslim and Hindu communities. Here Nazrul's uniqueness of sublime thoughts reigns supreme like that of a super human. His creation teaches us how to love and respect all human beings. This is wonderful because it makes us think of shaking off the path of hostility, aggression, violence and bloodshed. The use of similes and metaphors in Nazrul's songs is subtle. Say for example, "Ami Dekhbo Kokhon Amar Eider Chand Mustafa Ke" metaphorically represents Prophet Muhammad (SM) as the moon. Again, there are many such examples in the songs "Mohammad-er Naam Jopechhi" like "Mor Nabirey Lukiye Dekhe, Taar Peshanir Jyoti Mekhe, Ore Chand Rangli Ki Tui Gabhir Anuraag-e".

The essence of Nazrul's lyrics strikes me and brings tears to my eyes. Eid-e Miladunnabi is both the birth and death anniversary of our beloved Prophet (PBUH). So, the day brings both happiness and sadness. Nazrul was a poet of humanity who called for harmony instead of religious extremism. Nazrul is a treasure trove, he is our hero. May his soul rest in eternal peace!

ALBUM REVIEW

Wheelhouse

-- Brad Paisley

FAHMIM FERDOUS

[...continued from Tuesday] Brad Paisley is one of the most known voices of US country music today and very rightly so. His ninth studio album, "Wheelhouse", released in April 2013, ventured a wide range of lyrical and musical ground. The album review continues:

"Harvey Bodine" tells an interesting story, of a man who passed away, but then came back to life five minutes later, thanks to a defibrillator machine. With catchy whistling and a rhythmic progression, the song is definitely worth going back to, although maybe not over and over again.

"Tin Can on a String" is a story of heartbreak, of a beloved getting married and going away. Simple but vivid lyrics, fantastic vocal falsettos and the piano-like keys arrangement has an air of yearning about it, and is one of the touchiest romantic songs you will come across in a while.

"Death of a Single Man", has a typical Southern groove with subtle melodic guitar pieces, and is a genius piece in terms of lyrics, describing a wedding like a funeral. "Everyone cheered, I thought 'How odd!' / I didn't understand / Why with champagne and cake, we celebrate / The death of a single man" is a deceptively cheerful song.

"The Mona Lisa" steps out of the acoustic arrangement and throws in a bit of fiddle along with clean, swift electric guitar track. Another love song, this one is about the feelings of finding the woman of your dreams and being with her, and is said to be inspired by



Paisley's Paris trip with his wife.

"Accidental Racist", featuring rapper LL Cool J, addresses the issue of racial conflict in the South of USA in an honest conversation. Paisley's "Our generation didn't start this nation / We're still pickin' up the pieces, walkin' on eggshells, fightin' over yesterday", and LL Cool J's African-American accent replying "Just because my pants are saggin' doesn't mean I'm up to no good / You should try to get to know me, I really wish you would" speaks about the barriers that need to be broken.

"Runaway Train" is a delight if you're a fan of silky cowboy guitar-work. The fast-paced song picks up a catchy riff and brisk drumming, and the guitar pieces are crisp and crunchy, with just enough sprinkling of fiddle.

"Those Crazy Christians" in interestingly about religious, practicing Christians, and is where Paisley's maturity as a songwriter is most evident. Without being offensive in any way, he portrays his observations of the anomalies that he finds between religion and humanity, and expresses his opinions clearly but respectfully.

The album closes with "Officially Alive", an upbeat number with autobiographical-styled lyrics that some of his best songs ("Anything Like Me", "Letter To Me") are written in. The song bursts into life, much like the title suggests, saying that doing crazy things, being in love and being hurt are all signs that a person is alive, and the continuous cycle of love, when your child is born and how the feeling of new life can make you feel alive itself.



Swapnadal to stage Hargaj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Swapnadal will stage their popular production "Hargaj" at 7:30pm on July 12 at the Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Written by Natyacharya Selim Al Deen, the play has been directed by Zahid Repon.

The play centers on the aftermath of a devastating tornado that hit Hargaj in Manikganj district in 1989. The play, written in 1992, is a recollection of the playwright's experience of the tornado. Sukonya, Sharif, Shawon, Emon, Rejaul, Samad, Shishir and many others form the cast of the play. Thandu Rayhan has done the lights, while Fazle Rabbi Sukorno and Al-Amin have jointly done the stage design.



Professor Mahmood Shah Qureshi, Prof. Emeritus Anisuzzaman and Shamsuzzaman Khan, DG, Bangla Academy, at a memorial programme marking the birth anniversary of multi-linguist and language researcher Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah. The event took place at the Poet Shamsur Rahman Seminar Hall of the Bangla Academy yesterday.

Eid special drama on SATV

A CORRESPONDENT

A special single episode TV play "Tar Baba Godfather" will air on SATV during Eid. Written and directed by Sumon Anwar, the play revolves around the love affair of Nusrat Imroze Tisha, who plays a godfather's daughter, and her love-interest Rownak Hasan. Mamunur Rashid has played the role of Tisha's father.



Musical discussion on Eid Special Ittyadi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ittyadi, the longest-running TV series in Bangladesh's history, has always looked for new, innovative ways to entertain people, while also upholding their social responsibilities. As part of those endeavours, the show is hosting a one-of-a-kind musical discussion featuring actors Mir Sabbir, Apurba and Anisur Rahman Milon and singer Agun, hosted by actress Tarin Ahmed. Despite not being professional singers, the four actors have themselves given voice to the unique song, informed the show's production house Fagum Audio Vision. Written, directed and hosted by Hanif Sangket, the show is sponsored by Keya Cosmetics, and will air on the second day of Eid on BTv.

TV WATCH

Tobuoto Ma on Maasranga Television

A CORRESPONDENT

A single episode TV play "Tobuoto Ma" will air tonight at 8 pm on Maasranga television. Written by Yousuf Ali Khokon and directed by Rumman Rony, the story revolves around a couple involved in a crime of stealing new born babies from the hospital and selling them. Saleha and Mazed the couple are fourth-class employees at a hospital and are connected to a gang. Meanwhile, Saleha becomes pregnant and decides to refrain from stealing babies for the time being. But to their utter surprise, Ruhul, a broker informs her that he has in advance sold Saleha's yet to be born baby. The fate of the baby becomes uncertain. Moushumi Hamid, Shotabdi Wadud, Mahmudul Islam Mithu and many others form the cast of the drama.

