

Selim Al Deen's 65th birth anniversary

Swapnadal to hold five-day long festival



A CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Swapnadal is set to celebrate the 65th birth anniversary of Natyacharya Selim Al Deen with a five-day festival starting August 16. The tentative agenda of the festival includes a discussion on his life and works, seminar and workshop on his artistic thoughts, award-giving ceremony, presentation of music and choreography, and staging of his popular plays.

Swapnadal will stage "Hargi" and "Festoon-e-Lekha Smriti". Theatre and Performance Studies Department of Jatiyo Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (Mymensingh) will stage "Jaundice o Bibidhu Balloon" and Jahangirnagar Theatre will stage "Joiboi Konyar Mon".

The programme will run simultaneously in Dhaka and Mymensingh. It will kick off at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on August 16 and close at Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy on August 20.

NEWS bytes



Minogue to perform at Glasgow 2014 closing

Kylie Minogue will perform alongside Lulu, Deacon Blue and Dougie MacLean at the closing ceremony of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. The Hampden finale will be held on Sunday, less than 24 hours after the end of track and field events.

More than 2,000 volunteer performers will also take part in the ceremony, organisers confirmed. They promised to bring the curtain down on an "amazing games" with "a night out not to be missed."

Kylie Minogue's performance will represent the Games' transfer to her native Australia in 2018. Deacon Blue is one of Scotland's most successful acts with 12 UK top 40 singles and two number one albums.

The opening ceremony - featuring Tartan-clad performers, oversized Tunnock's tea cakes, a giant kilt and Scottie dogs - was widely praised for its energy and humour.

Source: BBC



IT'S TRUE!

Sridevi, an iconic figure of Bollywood of the 90s, left the industry in 1997 with "Judai", and returned in 2012 after 15 years with "English Vinglish", following which, she has been having a memorable year. This year, Sridevi received seven nominations for English Vinglish (one win), NDTV Entertainer of the Year, a Filmfare Special Award and the Padma Shri -- India's third highest civilian honour.



PHOTO: STAR

Heritage site

Gouripur House needs urgent attention

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Located on the banks of Old Brahmaputra River at Jubilee Road in the district town, the quaint two-storey 100-year-old Gouripur House continues to attract attention.

Unfortunately, the ground floor of the house is now used only for the disbursement of allowances by Sonali Bank Principal Office. The wooden second floor is used as the 'guest house' for senior officials of the bank.

The architectural beauty of the century-old house with a beautiful garden as the centre-piece continues to announce the presence of the erstwhile zamindars of the Gouripur dynasty.

The authentic date of its construction is unknown. The consensus is that Brajendra Kishore Roy Chowdhury, a zamindar of Gouripur established the 'Gouripur House' for the use of the family.

Brajendra Kishore Roy Chowdhury (1281-1364 Bengali Year), also a renowned classical music maestro, held programmes in Gouripur. Leading classical masters of the

sub-continent such as Enayet Khan (father of Ustad Vilayat Khan), Mohammad Ali Khan, the heir of classical master Tansen; Ustad Masid Khan, Ustad Uzir Khan, Hafiz Ali Khan, Dabir Khan performed at functions organised in Gouripur.

Brajendra Kishore's son Birendra Kishore Roy Chowdhury, a classical maestro was also adept at musical instruments like Surbahar, Sursringar, Esraj and Beenu. Birendra published a monthly newspaper "Sangeet Bigrav Probeshika" from Kolkata. He wrote two books on classical music -- "The status of Tansen in Hindustan Music" and "Raga Sangeet".

During the British regime the house was very regal with presence of zamindars, and should be preserved as a part of history of architecture, said centenarian Sohrab Uddin Sarker, a resident of Char Gobindapur village in Mymensingh sader.

According to the Antiquities Act-1968, the house is a national heritage now as it is a 100-year-old structure and no quarter can demand it as their own property, said an official.

continued at the house till 1985. After constructing a new building for bank's principal office in 1985, the house was left abandoned, according to sources.

During a visit, this correspondent discovered that five rooms on the second floor are being used as a 'guest house' for senior officials and their bearers, and as a kitchen. It is hazardous to cook food on the second floor of such a historical house, said insiders.

On a request to hand over the house to Department of Archaeology (DoA), a senior official of the bank said the house was the bank's property and they could not transfer it to DoA.

While the DoA expressed interest a few years ago in taking the house under its wing, the bank authorities did not respond, said Dr. Ataur Rahman, regional director of DoA.

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SYED BADRUL AHSEN

It is hard to forget Mohammad Rafi. There was the supreme artiste in him. More specifically, there was the voice of God in him, in his renditions of songs. You get a taste of it in the Bahadur Shah Zafar ghazal, na kisi ki aankh ka noor huun / na kisi ko dil ka qarar huun. There are all the moments when Rafi reminds you of the glory of the Creator. Sit back and reflect on the spirituality which shines through in parvardigar-e-alam tera hi ha sabha / tere siwa jahan mein koi nabiham hamara. You are then perhaps closer to God than you have been at any other time in your quotidian existence.

Thirty four years after Rafi's remains went into the grave, it is the greatness of the artiste that lives on. And it is greatness which comes wrapped in humility. He never drank, indeed never indulged in anything that was forbidden by his faith. The call to prayer was a duty he consistently answered. Observe all the images of him, some faded, quite a few grainy, but most as bright as daylight. There is always a smile, that of child-like innocence, which endlessly brightened his features. The man was symbolic of luminosity.

And nowhere was this luminosity more pronounced than in the versatility he brought into his music. If he could invoke God and have you go into a trance-like state with his songs of faith, he could also arouse in you --- and it did not matter how young or aged you were --- the ecstasy which came of being in love. The song takra gaya tum se dil hi to hai, is proof of the profound depths to which love could sink in order to rise into fullness. But, surely, the course of true love never did run smooth. The pain which underlies love as it gets entangled in myriad emotions flows in kabhi khud pe / kabhi haalat pe / rona aaya. Love all too often turns into remembrance of all the good and the pure that has been. Again, Rafi gives powerful voice to that emotion in yaad na jaaye beete din ki / jaa ke na aye jo din / dil kyun bulaye banaya.

Rafi had a range of voice that could take his songs to Olympian heights, as in O dunya ke rakhwale / sun dashr bhaare mere naaib and zindabadi zindabadi / a mohabbat zindabadi. It could also glide into a perfect pitch suitable for expressions of placid and yet passionate romance --- in aise to na dekho ke hum ko nasha ho jaaye, in sau baar janam lenge, in tere ghaara ke saamne ik ghar banaoonga, in tere mere sapne ab ek rang hain. There are all the instances of impatient romance in him. Think of wo saadgi kaise isse diwangi kaben / ka barha jo haath yahan dil luta dia and main pyar ka rahi huun / teri zulf ki saaye mein / kuch der

gar for as long as he could and return home humming the man's tune. Music, then, was for him never a contrived affair. He breathed it, lived it, in innumerable ways. In his songs came large doses of comedy. The image is Johnny Kapoor's on-screen tomfoolery could not have been conveyed by anyone other than Rafi. Think of lal chhatri maidan khari here. Or, through Biswajit's screen portrayal of it, April fool banaya / to un ko ghussa aaya / to main kya qasoor / zamane ka qasoor / jis ne dastoor banaya.

The day loses itself in the shadows of the night. From out there in the gathering dark comes a sense of inebriation as Mohammad Rafi sings koi sagar dil ko behalna and chhao lene do nazuk honota ko and hum behaldu mein tum ko pukare chale gaye and chhalakye jaam aiye aap ki ankhon ke naam.

Rafi's constellation of songs winds its way, always, deeper into an ever-unfolding universe of melody. Here on earth, the collective heart sings for him: tere bin soornain hamare.

Mohammad Rafi, pre-eminent singer of Indian film songs, bhajans, ghazals and what not, died on 31 July 1980

MOHAMMAD RAFI The humble great artiste

PHOTO: STAR



theher jaon and banda parwar thaam lo jigar / ban ke pyar phir aaya huun.

The Rafi repertoire has a universal quality that treats you to an endless flow of music. If his solos excite your romantic sensibilities, the duets with Lata, Asha, Geeta Dutt, Suman Kalyanpur, Noor Jehan and others only enhance the urge in you to love yet once more. Recall jeet hi lenge baazi hum tum and tere husn ki kya tareef karoon and aaja ke intezar mein jaane yahan. Shamma Kapoor's on-screen tomfoolery could not have been conveyed by anyone other than Rafi. Think of lal chhatri maidan khari here. Or, through Biswajit's screen portrayal of it, April fool banaya / to un ko ghussa aaya / to main kya qasoor / zamane ka qasoor / jis ne dastoor banaya.

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Jamuna-BAMBA Eid Concert continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Musical Bands' Association (BAMBA), in association with Jamuna Group, are holding a three day grand Eid Concert at the Jamuna Future Park. A total of 24 BAMBA member bands, which include the biggest names in the country's music scene, are on the line-up.

The concert begins at 5pm every day, with tickets available at Jamuna Future Park and elsewhere. Jamuna TV will broadcast the concert live, that is being sponsored by telecom operator Robi.

large audience. Today's line-up, meanwhile, will have Radioactive, Metal Maze, Powersurge, Arbovirus, Prometheus, Arthohin, Souls and Miles, and tomorrow, Beduin, Dreek, Mechanix, Nemesis, Renaissance, Maqsood O' Dhaka, Warfaze and LRB will take to the stage.

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I always try to be original...
In conversation with Joy Shahriar



SAURAV DEY

Joy Shahriar is a musician who gained popularity among youth with his first solo album "Shottol Bolchi" in 2009. Entering the music industry in 2006 with his band Nirjhor, Joy is now a busy singer, composer and songwriter.

Excerpts from a recent conversation with The Daily Star:

Tell us about your musical journey.

Joy: While I was in class nine, I formed my first band. My band Nirjhor's first album "Shopnopuri" came out in 2006. My first solo album "Shottol Bolchi" was launched in 2009 and second album "Ekhone" was released in 2011.

How would you describe your musical style?

Joy: I basically work with rock and blues. I work as a songwriter and music director. Apart from melo-rock and blues, you will find jazzy and indie-pop flavour in my music. I always try to be original and create my own musical style.

Tell us about your upcoming album.

Joy: I am excited about this project. I have written lyrics and done music arrangements for this album.

Joy: I will do a number of live shows. Shows on GTV, ABC Radio and Colours FM have already been confirmed. In addition ntv, SATV and some other TV channels will air recorded programmes.



How was the journey, as a whole?

Remi: It was very challenging, as I went with thousands of competitors for the championship. I think the way ahead will be easier. This contest has opened doors for me.

Who are the people in the industry you look up to?

Remi: Suborna Mostofa, Momo and Bindu.

What are you doing to celebrate this Eid?

Remi: I plan to share the joy of Eid with my family. I will also feast on my favourite dishes, which my mother makes.

Are Eid celebrations on a higher level?

Remi: Definitely. Earlier, only people from my town knew me. The scenario has changed now since I've won Parachute Advanced Beliophish Stylish Hair of the Campus 2014.

No bar on music behind bars

UK lifts ban on steel-string guitars in prison cells



A ban on steel-string guitars in prison cells in England and Wales has been reversed after a campaign by rock stars including Billy Bragg and Johnny Marr.

Prisoners had been unable to play the instruments outside supervised sessions since rules were changed last November.

Inmates will still need to earn the right to have the instruments through good behaviour. A Ministry of Justice spokesperson said: "Following feedback from prison governors, we have made a few minor adjustments to the property prisoners are allowed to have. These are still subject to individual risk assessments and can be refused by governors."

The government said the rules had been relaxed after feedback from governors.

However, a Ministry of Justice spokesperson said rules preventing prisoners from receiving books would remain in place.

Billy Bragg founded Jail Guitar Doors, a scheme that has sent around 350 guitars to prisons since 2007. Most were steel-stringed, he said.

"As an incentive to engage in rehabilitation individual access to steel string guitars can really help the atmosphere on a prison wing," the musician said.

"I've had a number of projects involving guitars on hold which will now be able to go ahead, and will allow those using music in

prisons to get on with this important work."

The ban was introduced in November as part of a wider tightening of the privileges that prisoners were allowed.

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Source: Internet

"The contest has opened doors for me"

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Rokeya Rashid Remi recently won the Best Stylish Hair of the Campus 2014, at a competition arranged by Parachute in a city hotel. A student of Mymensingh Mominunnissa Government College, Remi received Taka 3 lakh as a prize. Now Remi dreams of entering the glamorous showbiz world.

The Daily Star recently interviewed the elated youngster.

What was it like to win the competition?

Remi: It was like a dream, to be crowned winner and be flooded with compliments from the judges and other people. To win recognition early on, is a great achievement for me.

How did you end up participating in the competition?

Remi: My family inspired me to participate in the competition. After such a great achievement, I really want to be a part of the showbiz world.