

90th birth anniversary of SM Sultan

DANIEL SUGIT BOSE, Narail

Today is the 90th birth anniversary of world-renowned artist SM Sultan. On this day (10 August) in 1923, Sultan was born at Masimdia village of Narail.

Sultan Foundation and district administration will chalk out daylong programmes to mark the occasion today.

The celebrations include placing of wreaths at the artist's mausoleum, prayers and art competition at Shishu Swarga. Due to unavoidable circumstances, District Administration and Sultan Foundation have postponed the boat race in River Chitra and cultural functions, for next week.

SM Sultan was born to Sheikh Messer, a mason by profession. Sultan's formal schooling started at the Narail Victoria Collegiate School in 1928 where he studied for only five years. Then he joined his father in masonry. Being greatly influenced by his father's works in building gigantic houses, he started drawing and painting during his leisure time.

Sultan wanted to go to Kolkata to study art, but his family could not afford it. Finally, Dharendra Nath Roy, an art-loving zamindar, became the patron of Sultan's works and brought him to Calcutta in 1938. Roy came to his help and Sultan stayed at his Calcutta residence for three years.

Sultan left the art college in 1943 after completing half



of his six-year course. However, his results in college examinations were very good as he stood second in the first year and first in the second and third year. By his third year, Sultan realised he had little material needs and travelling attracted him more than formal education. He wanted to see the whole of India and embarked on his journey.

Sultan began his career as a freelance painter of portraits and landscapes in Calcutta. He also joined the Khaksar Movement in Calcutta in 1943, as he was highly influenced by the movement and developed his life-long sympathy and affection for all living beings.

During his travel, he made a living by drawing the portraits of allied soldiers who had camped at the place he was visiting. During this period, his first exhibition was held in Simla, though none of these works have survived, mainly due to Sultan's own indifference towards preserving his work.

After living and working in Kashmir for a while, Sultan returned to Narail(now part of Bangladesh) in the wake of the Partition of India. In 1950, Sultan went to USA - exhibiting his work in New York, Washington, Chicago, and Boston, and later in London. The great artist joined the international conference of painters in America in 1950 as the representative of erstwhile Pakistan.

In 1953, he returned to Narail and built a school for children, and a menagerie. Except for occasional visits to Dhaka (where he had his first exhibition in 1976) he lived in the quiet isolation of his house. A confirmed bachelor, Sultan settled down in an abandoned building in Narail overlooking the river Chitra, where he lived ever since with an adopted family and pets of his own including dogs, mongoose and monkeys. Sultan would later build a mini-zoo near his home. There he built a school for children and a menagerie.

SM Sultan was conferred with the 'Ekushey Padak' and the Cambridge University declared him as the 'man of Asia' in the same year in 1984. The Bangladesh government accepted him as the resident artist. He was honoured with 'Charushilpi Sangshad Sanmanana' in 1986 and 'Swadhinata Padak' in 1993.

SM Sultan died on October 10, 1994, at Jessore Combined Military Hospital (CMH) after suffering from prolonged breathing illness.



Artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma and litterateur Dr. Md. Zafar Iqbal inaugurate an exhibition of photos by Enam Ul Haque, MA Mohit and Onu Tareq, at the capital's Drik Gallery. The exhibition, showing 55 images of the vibrant lives of indigenous people, began on Friday, to celebrate International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. BMTC (Bangla Mountaineering & Trekking Club) has organised the exhibition, which remains open from August 8-15.

... Death is dead, not he; Chhayanaunt's homage to the bard



Abdul Wadul (L) and Fahmida Khatun (2-L) perform while Dr. Sanjida Khatun (R) narrates.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ZAHANGIR ALOM

In his creation "Adonais: An Elegy on the Death of John Keats", Percy Bysshe Shelley mentioned an excerpt - "He lives, he wakes-'tis Death is dead, not he;" perhaps, we, the Bangalees, feel the same pondering over the physical demise of bards like Tagore and Nazrul. Tagore is omnipresent in our thoughts. Without him and his creations, we have the least to hold on to and take pride in. We find the connotations of life in his literature.

Chhayanaunt, one of the leading cultural organisations of the country, observed the 73rd death anniversary of Tagore at its main auditorium on August 8. Dr. Sanjida Khatun, president of the organisation, set off the event with offering a Bhanusingher Padabali number "Moron Rey Tu(n)hu(n) Momo Shyam Saman". A choral rendition of the song "Shun Lo Shun Lo Balika" from the same poetry followed.

Several noted Tagore artistes performed selective songs at the event. What made every

performance evocative was Sanjida Khatun's emceeding of the entire event with excerpts, references, anecdotes, allusions and personal experiences. Tagore enthusiasts soaked in every piece of valued information along with rendition of parts of several songs by Deshikottom Sanjida Khatun.

The Tagore exponent said, "Rabindranath Tagore inserted 'akhor' amid 'kirttan' and thus made each of his composition unique. The style of kothokota (telling old tale/saga with musical tune) takes a prominent place in the bard's compositions. Say for example, in the song 'Krishnakoli Ami Tarei Boli', Tagore tamed the tune of kirttan twice like 'Ghomta Mathaye Chhilo Na Taar Motey' and 'Akash Paan-e Haney Jugal Bhuru' while the entire song followed the style of kothokota. Again, the song 'Tomaye Notun Kore Pabo Bole Harai Khoney Khon' is actually kothokota, but now it is sung following tappa style." To explain kothokota, the seasoned artiste-researcher also referred to Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay's celebrated novel "Poth-er Panchali" where Apu's father Harihar would commence kothokota at the

Kashir Ghat.

Abdul Wadul's presentation of the song "Krishnokoli" earned him accolades. His performance "Tumi Nobo Nobo Roop-e esho Pran-e" was fascinating too. Fahmida Khatun rendered two songs "Esho Esho Phirey Esho" and "Aji E Nirala Kunjey" while Azizur Rahman Tuhin's offering of the songs "Jokhon Porbey Na Mor Payer Chinho" and "Ogo Amar Chiro Ochena Porodeshi" was splendid. ATM Jahangir made the audience nostalgic with his superb performance of "Tumi Robey Nirobey" while Tania Mannan mesmerised all with immersing in a baitalik melody "Megh-er Porey Megh Jomechhey". Saikat Mukherjee and Sifayet Ullah Mukul also rendered solos. And last but not the least, Sanjida Khatun performed the song "Amaye Khomo Hey Khomo" while Warda Rehab danced to the live performance.

Enamul Haque Omar and Swarup Hossain on tabla, Asit Biswas on esraj and Pradip Kumar Roy on mondira accompanied the performances. The event wrapped up with the rendition of the National Anthem.

TV WATCH "Joto Durey Jabe Bondhu" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

A single-episode TV play "Joto Durey Jabe Bondhu" will air tonight on ntv at 9pm. Written by Sagor Jahan, the play has been directed by Rahmatullah Tuhin.

Plot: An emotionally distraught Ahnaf goes to Cox's Bazar to spend some time alone, but comes across a blind girl who he can't leave alone. Mohima, the girl, meanwhile has secrets of her own.

Apurbo and Romana has played lead role in the drama.



BRSSS' musical homage to Tagore



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

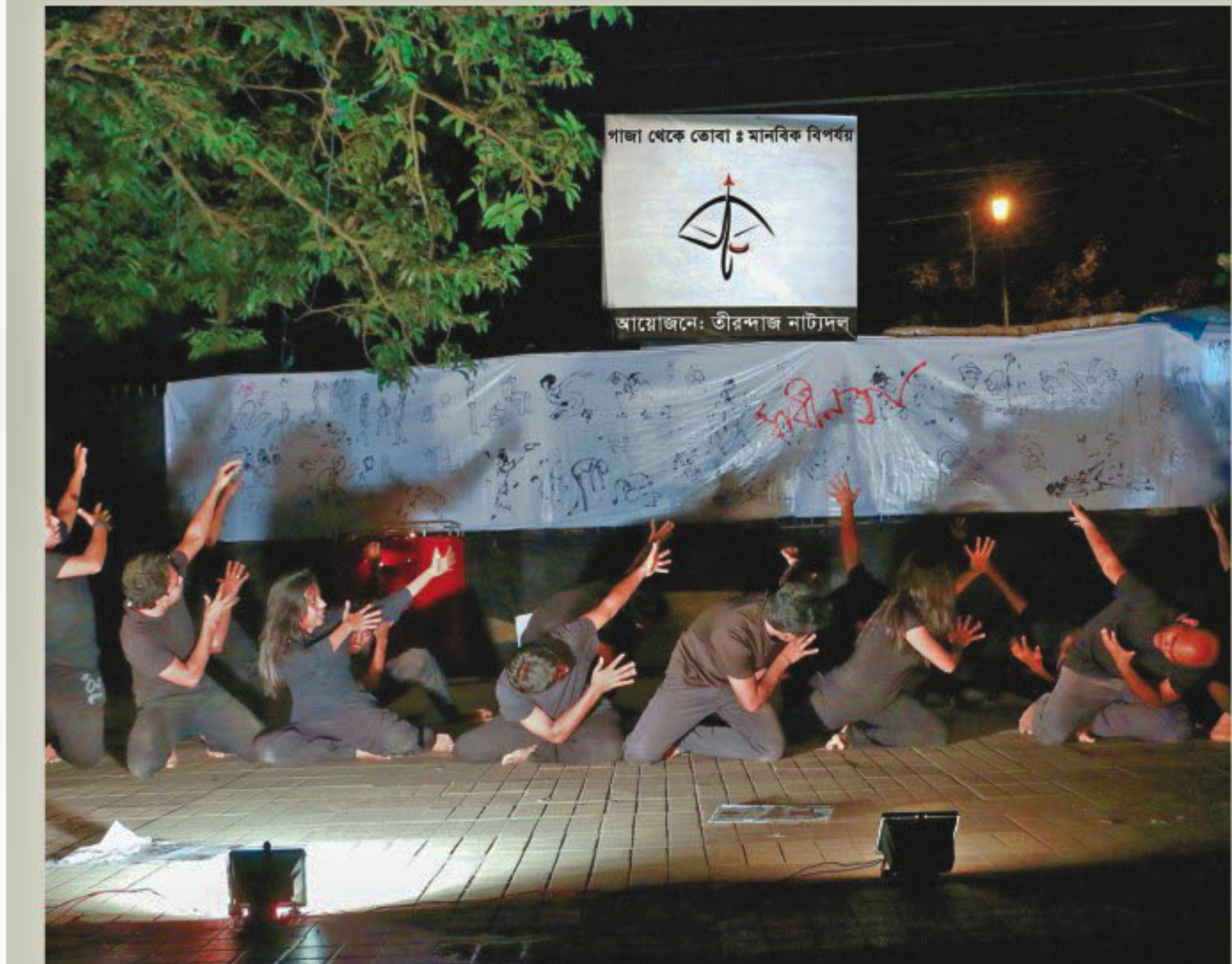
Marking the 73rd death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangsad (BRSSS) arranged a musical homage to the Bard at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium of Central Public Library, Shahbagh on August 7.

Artistes performed Kobiguru's songs themed on varied parjaya including prakriti and prem. The event started off with the rendition of the national anthem. Artistes of BRSSS rendered two choruses -- "Aguner Poroshmoni" and "Pran Bhoirye Trisha Horiye" at the event.

Noted artiste Fahim Hossain Chowdhury

expressively performed the song "Tomarei Koriachhi Jiboner Dhrubotara" while Badrunnessa Dalia sang "Amar Sakol Dukher Prodig". Among others, Nahar Jamil rendered "Je Ka(n)doney Hiya Ka(n)dichhey", Farhat Hossain presented "Dirgha Jibonpoth", ATM Jahangir performed "Tumi Robey Nirobey", Jayanta Acharya offered "Poth-er Shesh Kothaye" and Nasrin Akbar Rosy performed "Amaro Porano Jaha Chaye".

Noted Tagore singers Bulbul Islam, Lily Islam, Anup Bhattacharya, Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury, Roquaiya Hasina Neely, Mahadeb Ghosh, Hashi Biswas and Adrita Anwar also presented solos at the programme.



To protest the humanitarian crises at home and abroad-- from Gaza in Palestine to Dhaka's Tuba Garments --theatre troupe Teerondaz Natya Dal organised an open-space performance at the capital's Chhobi'r Haat premises on Friday. Teerondaz and BotTala staged their street plays "Oshruto Rupkotha" and "Jotugriho" respectively, while Prachyanat presented a performance art named "Stop Killing".

PHOTO COURTESY: SAIKAT BARAN SHIL

NEWS bytes

Foo Fighters tease eighth album



The theme of "eight" is running rampant for Foo Fighters' eighth studio album. The Fooos have been teasing the record for quite some time, but now, they have revealed the first snippet of their upcoming record.

For their eighth record, Foo Fighters recorded eight songs in eight different cities. The sessions have been documented for an eight-episode HBO series called 'Sonic Highways', which premieres on October 17. The band sent fans on an online scavenger hunt to collect eight pieces of a puzzle, which when completed, features the number eight hidden throughout the potential album cover.

On Friday August 8 (8/8), Foo Fighters brought the "eight" madness to new heights by revealing an eight-second clip of new music. The piece features frontman Dave Grohl screaming "All rise!" in a wildly abrasive voice. The band posted via Facebook to expect big news on Monday.

Source: Loudwire

IT'S TRUE!

Chewbacca, the "gentle, hairy, non-English-speaking co-pilot" Star Wars character which is dubbed one of the best sidekicks in film history -- was inspired by the film's writer George Lucas seeing his



own dog sitting up on the passenger seat of his car. The dog, named Indiana, also inspired the name of the lead character in another one of Lucas' film franchises - Indiana Jones. It is said that Chewbacca's name is derived from 'собака' (sobaka), the Russian word for dog.

Pradip's 'Universal Dream Never Dies'

'Universal Dream Never Dies', the second novel of Pradip Das is published by Jagriti Prokashony. The writer is a lecturer in English of an institute. The novel is full of excitement. The hero wants to free this world from the curse of road accident and follows an adventurous path. To collect, contact 01741381883 or www.rokomari.com. C-707