

### WHAT'S ON

**Rendition, Recitation & Dance**  
Title: Tomar Oshime  
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh  
Date: November 14, Time: 6:30pm

**Photography Exhibition**  
Celebrating Life Chapter II  
Organiser: BMSS  
Venue: Drik Gallery  
Date: Nov 26-27

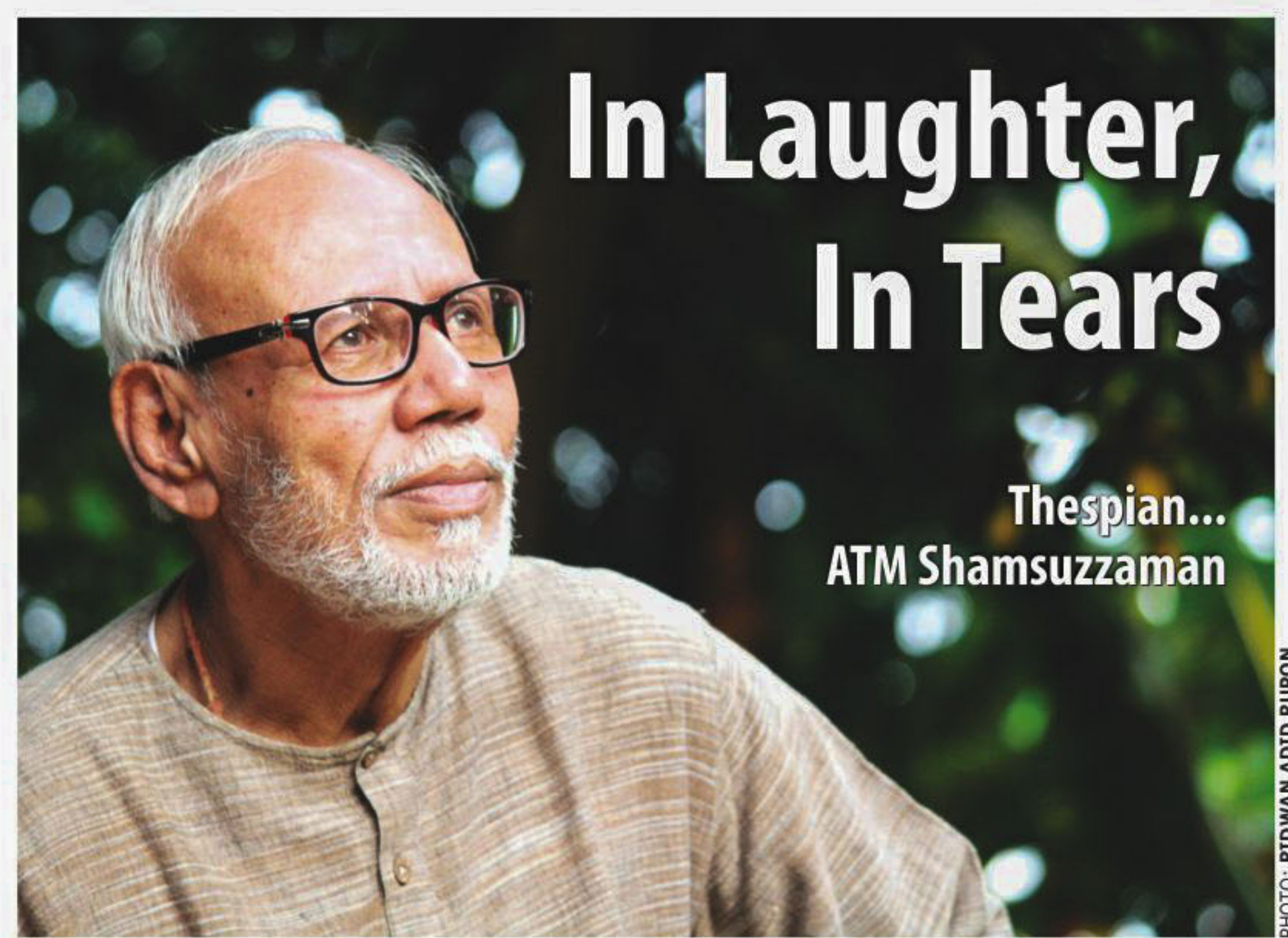
**Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Emerged From Unknown VI  
Organiser: HANS  
Venue: Drik Gallery  
Date: November 7-14  
Time: 3pm-9pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Syed Hasan Mahmud  
Venue: Bengal Shipalaya, Dhanamondi  
Date: Oct 24-Nov 15  
Time: 12-9pm

**Album Launch**  
Artist: Karim Hossain Khan  
Venue: AS Mahmud Auditorium, The Daily Star Center, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
Date: November 14  
Time: 5pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Life is Here  
Artist: Kanak Chandra Chakma  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 66, Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1  
Date: Nov 15-Dec 6  
Time: 12pm-9pm

**Nabanna Utshab 1421**  
Venue: Bokarola, Chakraborty, D.U.  
Date: November 15  
Time: 7:00am to 3:30pm



## In Laughter, In Tears

Thespian...  
ATM Shamsuzzaman

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Film legend, ATM Shamsuzzaman is a most admired actor. This correspondent recently spotted the National Film Award winner on the sets and engaged him in a no holds barred conversation. Excerpts: **What was your goal early on?** ATM Shamsuzzaman: To begin with, I worked as assistant director with director Uday Chowdhury as I wanted to be a cinematographer. I have been writing stories and poems for a long time. At one time I dreamt of becoming a director. Frankly, I did not have any interest in acting but became an actor through the grace of the Almighty. **Are you satisfied with how far you have come?** ATM Shamsuzzaman: There is no room for complacency for actors. Despite acting in a several movies, I'm still critical of my performances. It always seems that I could have done better if I had been more focused during shooting. I think an artiste always has this sense of inadequacy. **What accounts for your powerful performances on screen?**

ATM Shamsuzzaman: I have faced this question several times from the media and my fans. If an artiste has sound knowledge of acting, she/he can detect even a minute fault in the performance. However, the audiences and critics have always praised my works though I cannot always believe that.

### I aspired to become a cricketer.

**Who is your favourite actor?** ATM Shamsuzzaman: I'm a diehard fan of Dilip Kumar. There is a unique dimension to his acting. **How do you feel when people shower you with love and admiration?** ATM Shamsuzzaman: It is a great achievement for an artiste. I think it's the blessings of Almighty. **What did you aspire to become as a child?** ATM Shamsuzzaman: A cricketer.

Later, I dreamt of becoming a doctor in the footsteps of our family physician Dr Nandi. **You also wanted to become a writer?** ATM Shamsuzzaman: I used to hang out with a number of intellectuals at the office of the daily Samakal; Sikandar Abu Zafar was its editor. I aspired to be a writer and a poet those days. **When did you become interested in film direction?** ATM Shamsuzzaman: During my teens. However, at one stage, my dream of becoming a director was shattered. Later, I wrote around 50 scripts for films. **What about your film direction?** ATM Shamsuzzaman: In my career, I have made only one film but it was drastically censored and I incurred a huge loss when it was released. **How positive are you?** ATM Shamsuzzaman: I'm very optimistic. I have no regrets at all. I'm very dedicated to my work and I shoot all day long without a break. I eagerly want to do something outstanding and will work towards this till my days are over.

## TÊTE-À-TÊTE

### "Dance in itself becomes the ornament"

-- Shamim Ara Nipa

**A CORRESPONDENT**  
Shamim Ara Nipa is one of the top exponents of classical dance in the country, and her school, Nriyanchal (co-founded with Shibli Mohammad), has developed a reputation for being an excellent institution. The Daily Star recently caught up with the veteran artiste about her school.

**What is the vision of your dance school Nriyanchal?** Nipa: Nriyanchal aims at developing dancers with a foundation in at least one classical dance form and basic knowledge about a few contemporary moves. We also emphasise on workshops guided by different trainers. **What are the selection criteria for your students?** Nipa: For private lessons we select students who are skilled

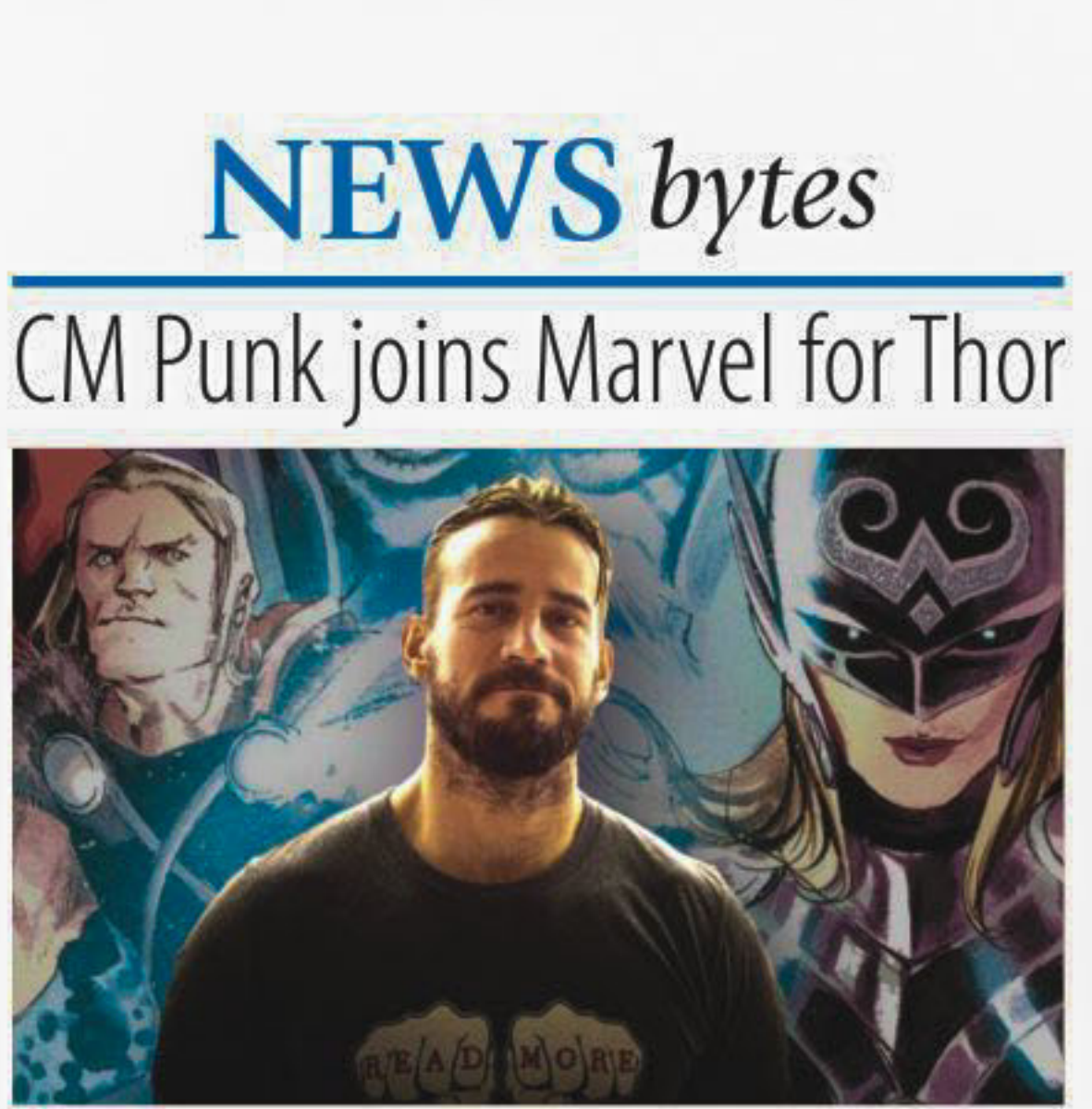


to some extent in dance. For the school we take the beginners as well as skilled dancers. However, even beginners have to show some aptitude. Dance is something we inherit, but all too often a process of learning. **What is the ideal age for beginners?** Nipa: It's good for them to start up at four-five years. That is the ideal age when we can help them to stay with the right rhythm and tempo. **How do you plan your TV programme "Tarana"?** Nipa: We regard this as our creative responsibility not just a TV show. We call participants from every corner of the country so that we don't leave out any potential dancers. We approach them when we learn that they dance well, even if they are not perfect in their moves. **For workshops with senior artistes, we filter only the skilled dancers as participants. We don't take risks with amateurs. The best thing about "Tarana" is that the judges give their critical inputs so that dancers learn how to develop their art, wear the right costumes for certain dance forms. You cannot learn all this merely from dance classes. What are your plans to take Nriyanchal further?** Nipa: Our aim is to give our students a complete education in dance and develop their potential. It's up to them to decide how far they want to take it. **How expensive is the dance form?** Nipa: Dancing is an expensive art form because you have to have the right costumes, accessories, singers, stage, lights and so on for a performance. Then again, it's all about how well you perform; the degree of clarity in your steps. In that case, the performance itself becomes the ornament. **A memorable moment in your dance career...** Nipa: Nothing can beat our happiness at performing for the Nobel Prize ceremony. We were the first ever dancers to perform at Stockholm Concert Hall in Sweden. It is certainly the most memorable moment of my life.

## NEWS bytes

### CM Punk joins Marvel for Thor

Marvel.com has officially confirmed that immensely popular wrestler CM Punk (real name Phil Brooks), who retired from wrestling recently, will be joining the Marvel comic book writer's team. He will be tag-teaming up with artist Rob Guillory to write the Thor Annual #1, slated for release in February. In an interview with Marvel, Brooks admitted he has never written a comic-style script before, but says he's suited for it because he's "been reading comic books my entire life". He also revealed that his ultimate Marvel dream is to write a story of "The Punisher".



directed by some well-known Bengali directors. He left the audience in splits as he recounted an old story of how a Bengali zamindar forgot to bring back his 'dhuti' while trying to bring back the 'chadar' his wife gave him before going to a court case. For her part, Jaya, whose first big break in commercial cinema came in Bengali film "Dhoni Meye" along with Uttam Kumar, said coming to the Kolkata film festival with her whole family was like coming to a family function. An orchestra led by percussionist Bickram Ghosh, singer Usha Uthup and classical vocalist Ustad Rashid Khan presented a musical collage of Hindi, Bengali and English films like "Mughal-e-Azam", "Sound of Music", "Sholay", "Titanic" and "Goope Gaye Bagha Byne". On the occasion, a CD compilation of songs celebrating

## Unfolding a musical Master plan

In conversation with Bengal Foundation Chairman Abul Khair

FAHIM FERDOUS

The Bengal Classical Music Festival -- Bangladesh 2014, returning to the Army Stadium in less than a fortnight, has already been established as the world's biggest festival of classical music -- in terms of the stature and number of performers, attendance and duration. This year, tens of thousands signed up within the first three days after registration opened early this month. Abul Khair, Chairman of Bengal Foundation and the mastermind of

### The youth of Bangladesh have proven themselves as fantastic audiences.

This festival of mammoth proportions, spoke to The Daily Star about this vision and the festival. Excerpts: **I was very fortunate to have neighbours like Zaimul Abedin, Sohrab Hossain and Ustad Phool Mohammad as a child; I grew up listening to music, mostly without understanding or appreciating it. But it got embedded in me. Then in our home at Old Dhaka, we used to have cultural addas; my family was closely involved with cultural activities and sports. And I began thinking that Bangladesh's role is the most important in promoting, propagating and popularising what is now called Indian Classical Music to the world; before partition, this was Indian classical because we were all part of greater India. The people who took our classical music and dance to the world, were Imdad Khan, Enayet Khan, Vilayat Khan, Bade Gulam Ali Khan, Ali Akbar Khan, Uday Shankar, Ravi Shankar -- all had their roots here in Bangladesh. It's in our bloodstream. Then where did it go?** **Classical music cannot generate income; it is patronised -- by zamindars, kings or a government. After partition, the great artistes moved to India. And the market died out, because there was no livelihood through classical music. Around 15 years ago, we started a classical music school called 'Parampara', but it failed because the teachers that we'd brought -- Ustad Mashkoor Ali Khan and Shanti Sharma, came and taught sparingly, but whenever they left, the students' perseverance also dimmed. We gave scholarships to many musicians and sent them to India, but they did not return on completion of their scholarships because they earned a good living from a musical career in India and there was nothing for them here.** **"Our job is not to alleviate poverty. I believe the 170 million people are led by some 200,000 people -- who are in important positions. If they are enriched culturally, future generations will grow up as a culturally rich**



generation. I believe all forms of arts are inspired somehow by music." **I realised to revive classical music, there needs to be a 'big bang' impact. I decided to do it in a stadium, but create the right ambience. I believe, to make an event successful you have to think what the common attendee needs. If they get food at affordable prices, good washrooms and other facilities, they will come. I took care of the general audience's needs. Of the 20,000 people that came, 80 percent were 20-35 years old. It was a massive success."** **The second year, because of the volatile political situation of the country--the hartals and violence, we thought people would not turn up. To our utter surprise, 36,000 people came even on the last day; they walked miles to reach home, and as I passed by them, I noticed that they were going back happy and not begrudgingly. This is something Bangladesh should be very proud of. The youth of Bangladesh have proven themselves as fantastic audiences; there was no chaos, no yelling and no disturbance. I am grateful to the Army Stadium and all other concerned parties for all their cooperation."** **This year, to give the audience a better experience, we've brought an auditorium from China, 40 feet high**

and 150 feet long, so it needs no bamboo structure. The sound system we're importing is D&B from Germany, which is also state-of-the-art. The arrangement is very important; it helps in creating the ambience where automatically people will be at their best behaviour." **But the ultimate success of this festival will be when we have artistes of our own -- maybe 25 artistes that we can nurture to perform on the same stage as the maestros in the next 10 years -- and thus we have reopened 'Parampara'. Alongside vocals, we will have all kinds of instrumental trainings here -- sarod, sitar, sarangi, even the surbahar. Gradually, we will move towards dance. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma and Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia have both agreed to supervise the tuition of santoor and flute. Pandit Ullhas Kashalkar is coming as the principal of our school; Pandit Uday Bhawalkar is coming to teach dhruwad vocals and Bahauddin Dagar to teach surbahar from the very first day, while Suresh Talwalkar will teach tabla. There is no single school in India that teaches all sections of classical music; we want to achieve that. Now, we just have to nurture it.** **Bangladesh has three things -- people, soil and rivers, and I don't think we need anything else. If we can just channel ourselves right, we can achieve great things."**

## A voice with a difference

SHAHNOOR WAHID

In the '60s and '70s when the Bangla music ambit was largely dominated by stalwarts like Hemanta Mukherji, Shyamal Mitra, Shatinath Mukherji, Manna Dey, Kishore Kumar, Tarun Bannerji, Minal Charabari and Subir Sen, it was quite difficult for other singers, on both sides of the divide, to draw the attention of the Bangla song aficionados and earn their appreciation. Among the very few male singers in this part of Bengal during that period who could earn that respect and appreciation was late Mohammad Ali Siddiqui. MA Siddiqui had that voice quality, that voice texture, well trained and groomed in childhood that could do justice to any kind of song. He sang melodious and cheery songs for the heroes in Bangla films made in Dhaka those days. That he could sing a song with veritable ease and poise is evident in his rendition of songs like, "Heshey khleye jibonta Jodi choley jai, bhbonaki ar tatey khoti bolo kar..." or "Oi dur dur durantey nil nilantey, kichhu jantey na jantey shanto shanto mon oshanto hoey jai...". He went on to sing many more songs throughout these two decades. But the song of Siddiqui that would stand apart from the rest is, "Bashi bajey oi durey, chena ki ochena surey, e logone mon tai, thakey najey ar ghorey. Bhola mon bhuley gelo kodomtoir bakey, dahukia kadey eka tomaloro shakhey, o tar shathi hara bedonatey hridoy joro...e logone mon tai, thakey najey ar ghorey...". The emotive lyrics and the soulful tune, as it would reverberate in the heavens, would surely make the listener of the song contemplative and make him want to hear it again and again. It is unfortunate that this singer of merit did not get too many good songs to prove his mettle. There was a veritable shortage of talented lyrics writers and music composers these days in this part of Bengal. The demand for bubbly filmy songs kept some of them busy and as a result we did not get too many songs of high quality from these singers. Many of them soon were pushed back to the fringes as producers of so-called "modern" songs took over the industry. Siddiqui was among them. He lived the last days of his life humming the good songs he had sung once. In a TV interview a few years back, when he was asked to mention his favourite song, he looked at the swaying trees in the distance through the window and sang, "Bashi bajey oi durey, chena ki ochena surey...". Perhaps he has finally gone to that land in search of that illusive bashi and the beckoning ochena sur.



## IT'S TRUE!

Channel I held a daylong Humayun Mela yesterday at its premises marking legendary litterateur-filmmaker Humayun Ahmed's 66th birth anniversary. The fair, attended by renowned cultural personalities, artistes and fans of Ahmed, featured music performances with dance, interview, painting, discussion and staging of a play.



The 1952 Hindi movie "Baiju Bawra" is based on the legend of Baiju Bawra from the days of the Mughal era. Baiju, the son of a musician, also grows up to be a musician. He starts believing that Tansen -- the legendary musician at Akbar's court--is responsible for his father's death. The movie then follows Baiju's attempts to avenge his father's death by challenging Tansen to a musical duel. Music director Naushad and lyricist Shakeel Badayuni created some memorable Raga-based soundtracks for the film which brought Naushad a Filmfare Award as the Best Music Director. The stupendous success of the soundtracks also established Mohammad Rafi as the top playback singer, while the other playback singers in the film were Lata Mangeshkar, Shamshad Begum, classical vocalists Amir Khan and D. V. Paluskar.

## APU BISWAS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

*Celebrated film artiste Apu Biswas has the distinction of drawing up the most films opposite Dhallywood heartthrob Shakib Khan. While she disappeared from the scene for a while, she is back with a big bang. In a rapid fire round with The Daily Star, Apu gave some interesting repartees to our questions.*

**How do you fight back a bad mood?** Apu Biswas: I stop talking to everyone. **What frightens you most?** Apu Biswas: Those who harm others. **What would you do if you could rewind to your childhood?** Apu Biswas: If that were really possible, I would love to return to those carefree days. **What would you be if you were not an actress?** Apu Biswas: I never thought about that. **Do you ever talk to yourself in the mirror?** Apu Biswas: I enjoy just looking at my reflection. **Is there anyone who you rush to see when you return home early?** Apu Biswas: My mother. **What would you do if you had supernatural powers?** Apu Biswas: I would bring a new dimension to Dhaka cinema. **What irritates you most about Dhaka city?** Apu Biswas: Hands down, the traffic jams. **Do you believe in ghosts?** Apu Biswas: That was during my childhood. Not anymore. **You find it amusing when...** Apu Biswas: When I catch someone telling lies. **What if you won hugely at a lottery?** Apu Biswas: I believe in dedication to my work. I want to go ahead merely through my creativity.

## Kangana Ranaut to play an athlete in Tanu Weds Manu Returns

Kangana Ranaut will soon reprise her role as Tanu in the sequel to "Tanu Weds Manu". She is set to play a pivotal role of a Haryanvi athlete in director Anand L. Rai's "Tanu Weds Manu Returns". After the stupendous success of love story "Ranjhanaa", the director is now busy with the sequel of the 2011 rom-com that starred Kangana Ranaut and R. Madhavan. Anand L. Rai will be collaborating with Eros International for "Tanu Weds Manu Returns". Director and producer of the film are confident that the sequel, which is scheduled to release next year, will be just as memorable and entertaining as the first one. Source: Internet



## KOLKATA INT'L FILM FESTIVAL

### Stars win Bengalis hearts

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Deep down in the Kolkattans' hearts, there was a tinge of dismay about the fact that Bollywood's superstars, including Amitabh Bachchan and his family and Shahrukh Khan, outshone the stars of Tollywood at the glitzy opening ceremony of the 20th edition of Kolkata Int'l Film Festival on the evening of November 10 at Netaji Indoor Stadium. In a way, perhaps, it is understandable that the dazzle of Bollywood with its pan-India appeal is bound to be more than that of the regional Indian language cinema industry. However, quite a bit of that disappointment of many was addressed when Shahrukh, who considers Kolkata as his second home, and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan regaled the audience by speaking in Bangla. "Kolkata aamar praner shahar. Kolkata film festival aamar praner utsav. Chalo sobai miley eta ke safal kori", wailed the Bollywood 'badshah'. For her part, Aishwarya said "aamdar poribarer protti apnader ashvilar bhlaobashar jonyo onk onek dhonyobad (thank you for the love and affection that you have showered on our family)". Amitabh Bachchan said he is proud that all members of his family, including wife Jaya, son Abhishek and daughter-in-law Aishwarya, have acted in films



100 years of Bengali film music was also released. Besides the NETPAC Award section for Asian films, the film festival has for the first time introduced a competitive section for films made by women directors from 13 countries. Australian filmmaker Paul Cox and Bollywood actor-director Amol Palekar would be part of an international jury which will judge the best film carrying a cash prize of Rs 51 lakh. The best director would be felicitated with a statuette of "The Royal Bengal Tiger Award" which was unveiled by Shahrukh and Amitabh. A special tribute would be paid to legendary actress Suchitra Sen with screenings of seven of her works like "Devdas", "Andhi" and an exhibition on her contribution to cinema.

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