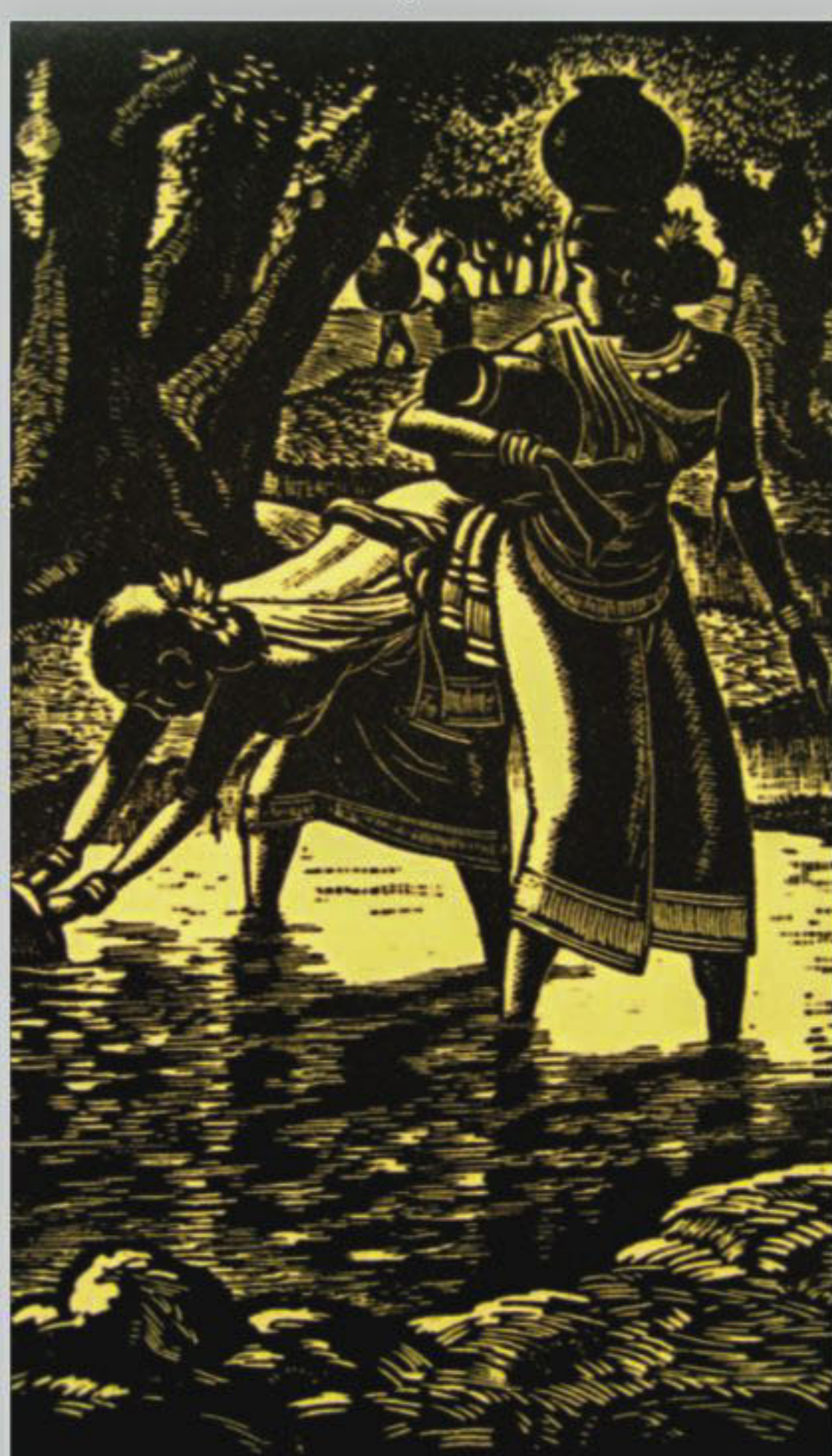


Safiuddin Ahmed's 93rd birth anniversary observed



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday marked the 93rd birth anniversary of eminent painter and printmaker Shilpaguru Safiuddin Ahmed. One of the founders of Dacca Art College (now the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka), he was a friend and colleague of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. From 1948 to 1979, he served as head of the department of printmaking at the institution.

Safiuddin's art mainly focuses on rural panorama, pastoral life, landscapes, memories of 1971, the Language Movement, floods and other natural calamities as well as Santal life.

Safiuddin was known for his woodcut engravings. He devoted much time to a single piece of painting and print. Black is the predominant aspect in his work. From the beginning, the maestro experimented with black and its mysterious tones, tenors and layers of colour. Most of his colours look muted and he conveyed the message of peace and harmony. His paintings are technique-oriented as well. His lines have created a distinct language where one can learn about his perseverance, longing and devotion to art.

Some of his outstanding achievements as an artist included the President's Gold Medal (1945) by Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta; first prize in the category of black and white in International Contemporary Art Exhibition, New Delhi (1946); first prize in the category of black and white (etching and drawing) in Inter-Asian Art Exhibition in New Delhi (1947) and Patna Maharaja's Gold Medal (1947). He was a proud recipient of the Ekushey Padak and Shadhinota Puroshkar.

His first solo exhibition was held in 2008 by the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, on his 86th birthday. A two-part exhibition was later held in December 2010, with all his works, titled "Shilper Oshesh Alo".

Faculty of Fine Arts of University of Dhaka, Bengal Foundation and other organisations paid tributes to the artist by placing wreaths at his grave at the mausoleum premises of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

He passed away on May 20, 2012 at the age of 90.



Shakib-Jaya's CHEMISTRY on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

Shakib Khan and Jaya Ahsan, two of the most popular film stars of our times, will be seen as guests in Maasranga Television's special Eid programme "Chemistry".

Produced by Saiful Islam and hosted by Rumana Malik Munmun, the show has been recorded in Maasranga studio recently.

Jaya and Shakib together entertained the audience with their first blockbuster hit film

"Purno Doirgho Prem Kahini", and now the sequel of the film is set to release ahead of this Eid.

In the show the duo engage in casual conversation about their shared interests and films. Both talk about their personal

lives and share many interesting anecdotes. Shakib Khan talks about his dream girl, and Jaya turns the spotlight on her future plans.

The show will air on Maasranga Television on the second day of Eid.

RAMADAN CHRONICLES

Eid gives me a nostalgic vibe ...Riaz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Film star Riaz is busy ahead of Eid. With a number of television plays under production, the actor spends most of time on shooting spots. Nevertheless Riaz is all geared up to usher in Eid. The Daily Star talked to him about his preparations for the festival. Excerpts:

What is your usual Iftar menu?

Riaz: Juice and dates are a must on my Iftar menu along with other items. I go for rich but portioned food.

Where do you usually have Iftar?

Riaz: I usually break my fast on the shooting sets with other unit members. This Ramadan, I shared one Iftar with my family at home.

What's your take on going out for sehri?

Riaz: I never go out for sehri. I think sehri is a personal matter and I don't want it to be that ceremonious.

How many plays have you done this Eid?

Riaz: A number of plays will air on different television channels. I will be seen in Meher Afroze Shaon's "Tithir Nil Toale" and Masud Shezan's "Fush Montor" along with a few more plays.

This will be the first Eid with the new-comer in your family. How does it feel?



Riaz: I am glad that I'll get to spend Eid with my daughter Amira Siddiqui. It's a feeling that cannot be expressed in words.

Where will you spend this Eid?

Riaz: I will spend Eid with my family in Dhaka. I usually go for outings on the second or third day of Eid since there's no work load.

What about your Eid shopping?

Riaz: I usually do my Eid shopping a week before Eid. I think the market offers a wider variety during that time and you can buy your favorite items.

What is your favourite Eid attire?

Riaz: Obviously punjabi and pajama.

What's the meaning of Eid to you?

Riaz: Eid means joy. People from all walks of the society offer prayers together. Eid gives me a nostalgic vibe.

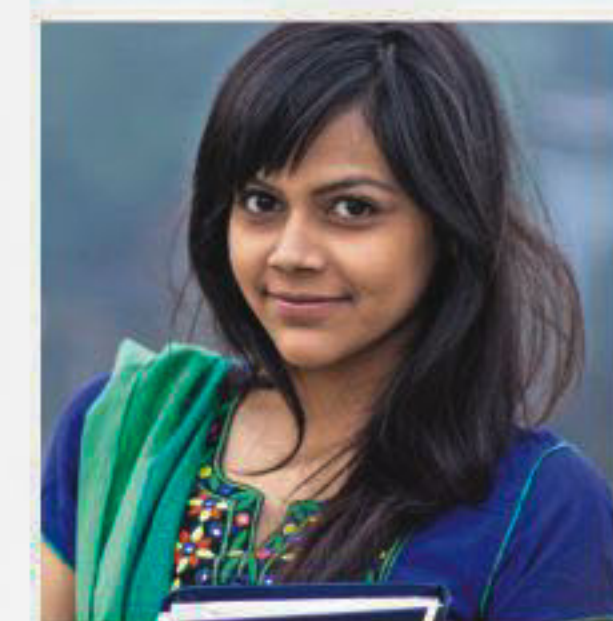


IT'S TRUE!

Despite the fact that Stan Lee came up with the idea for a "quintessential capitalist" hero and many of the traits which have stuck with Iron Man over the years, he didn't actually write the story in Tales of Suspense #39 which introduced Tony Stark to the Marvel Universe. The writer was juggling so many books at the time and he was forced to hand over writing duties to Larry Lieber, so it was him along with artists Don Heck and Jack Kirby who all played a key role in the character's creation. The latter two are actually credited with coming up with the look of Tony, his armour, and the majority of his supporting cast too.



Dhoni Meye on Channel 9



A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial titled "Dhoni Meye" will air on Channel 9 tonight. Written and directed by Matiya Banu Shuku, the serial casts Abul Hayat, Dolly Zahur, Dipanwita Halder, Swagata, Intekhab Dinar and others.

The plot revolves around a government employee Anwar and his three daughters Bipasha, Manisha and Tanisha who have vastly different temperaments. Their father cannot afford to fulfill their needs so they decide to live independently. Meanwhile, their father dies, leading to a crisis. The serial runs from Tuesday to Thursday at 8:30pm.

NEWS bytes

Titanic composer dies in plane crash



Composer James Horner, who won two Oscars for the music of "Titanic" and scored such other blockbusters as "Avatar," "Braveheart," "Apollo 13" and "A Beautiful Mind," died Monday in a plane crash in Ventura County.

When his plane crashed north of Santa Barbara on Monday morning, Horner, a trained pilot, was alone in the plane.

Horner was one of the most popular film composers of the last 30 years, and his "Titanic" soundtrack - with its hit Celine Dion song, "My Heart Will Go On," written with Will Jennings - became the biggest-selling movie-score album of all time, selling an estimated 30 million units worldwide.

He scored more than 100 films in all and was often in demand for big popcorn movies. Most recent were "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "The Karate Kid" remake.

Source: VARIETY

Katrina teams up with Jackie Chan for "Kung Fu Yoga"

Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif will be seen alongside Chinese superstar Jackie Chan in her first international film "Kung Fu Yoga".

The action-adventure will be directed by Hong Kong based filmmaker Stanley Tong.

The 31-year-old actress will play an Indian professor at a Chinese university, while Chan plays a Chinese archaeologist who enlists her help to unearth treasures from the Magadha era.

The two set out on a treasure hunt, which begins in the dynasty of King Bimbisara. He ruled the Magadha Empire from around 542 BC to 492 BC. He was known for his cultural achievements and was a great friend and protector of Gautam Buddha.

The professor and the archaeologist will travel back in time and interact with the royals. They will also fight off demons from their past.

Source: Mumbai Mirror



Music gives me peace ...Mira Sinha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mira Sinha is a regular singer of Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar. Hailing from the Manipuri community of Kamolganj Upazila in Moulvibazar, her passion is singing. Though she is in government service, music is her forte. In a recent conversation with the correspondent, she talked about her passion, inspiration and more. Excerpts:

What's your take on the present state of folk songs in Bangladesh?

Mira: We have a rich heritage of folk songs and it is being enriched day by day. People want to hear folk songs and youngsters now embrace folk art forms as well. They practice it and now perform it.

Folk songs are often recomposed using modern equipments. What's your take on that as a singer?

Mira: Youths like it and listeners also accept the modern renditions. I think singers should be more careful so that the original appeal of those songs remains the same and the originality is not lost. Televisions and radios should have an archive of the original versions of the songs.

What's the genre of your choice?

Mira: I sing Nazrul Sangeet and folk. Also I have fascination for adhunik songs. I am learning classical music and that helps in singing different genres. I am a singer by passion. I inherited music from my mother, and my father is an accomplished Mridangam player in Kamolganj.

Tell us about your albums.

Mira: My first solo album "Prothom Prem Keno Bhola Jayna" released in 2008. Last year, I released two albums; one of which contains adhunik Bangla songs, and the other contains folk songs in



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Bishnupriya-Manipuri Language. The Manipuri album was released from Guwahati, Assam. Another CD was released from Kamolganj Lalitkala Academy in Manipuri language.

What is your aspiration?

Mira: Singing lets me forget my sorrows and gives me peace. I want to keep singing. My heart lies with singing.