

SOKHI CHOLONA JOLSHA GHOR-E EBAR JAI

SYED ABDUL HADI through music at 75!

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

At the Dhaka University, friends would often refer to Syed Abdul Hadi as "Bhomora" --meaning a bumblebee. As a student, Hadi would often sing Shyamal Mitra's popular song *Bhomora phooler bon-e modhu nitey* at the cultural programmes. It doesn't leave much to the imagination how he picked up his nickname! "It was music composer Karim Shahabuddin who heard me at a function and introduced me to the film industry in 1960.

My debut as a playback singer was in the film titled *Yeh Bhi Ek Kahani*.

"From then on there was no looking back," says Ekushey Padak 2000 winner Hadi.

Singer Syed Abdul Hadi turns 75 today. Acute observer of the music industry as it unravelled since the '30s, he has made an indelible imprint in the hearts of music lovers.

A household name and a musical talent in our country for about half a century, Hadi is distressed at the current music scene. "The entertainment industry is in disarray. It is more of a show business," he says. "I view music similar to a flowing river. As the river flows, there is no human hand that can change its course; similarly, music takes its own course. It is rarely still--and like sparkling crystal clear water, it also reflects the society where the music originates.

"Take for instance, Kolkata in the '30s when it was the centre of performing arts for the Bengalis. The cultural field was vibrant. After the establishment of HMV, the Calcutta Radio Station in 1928 and the talkies in place of silent movies brought about a transformation; from then on music industry grew to greater heights in West Bengal. This was a booming period when artistes of immense talents, including singers, composers and lyricists came together to create the golden era of Bengali music.

"The sweet romantic notes of the '30s-'60s were hummed by one



PHOTO: STAR

and all.

"After Partition, music as an industry developed with the introduction of radio, cinema and other media. During 1965, HMV was established in erstwhile East Pakistan. However, as a component of film songs, recordings were still carried out in Lahore, West Pakistan. You can see the reason why music as an industry hardly attained full potential in this part of the region. Even the market was stagnant," continues Hadi.

Hadi goes on to add, "During the '70s, audio industries began to take shape, although very few in

number. However, during the '70s, the genre of adhunik songs of our country reached its zenith and we surpassed the popularity of the songs of West Bengal."

"By the '80s music industry in our country, had gained momentum. I agree there are two sides to a coin, but I fully disagree with the all out 'commercial approach' in the music industry. In recent times due to commercialisation, music has turned into a 'commodity'. It has debased the quality and as a listener I feel cheated."

In a lighter moment, the singer says, "Remaining at peace with

oneself is a prerequisite for any performer. Musicians need to concentrate, so as to strike a chord in the audience. That is exactly what 'angling' is for me. While fishing, I am deeply focused as I soak in the tranquility of the all-pervasive nature. There are instances when I would have recording sessions but be totally oblivious of the time. I would sit on a *macha* (bamboo platform) and wait for that tug on my fishing line! Since there were no cell phones at that time, people would come frantically looking for me at my favourite hangout spots near the lakeside and rush me to the recording studios!

"The recording sessions would often continue the entire night, but we would not be fatigued. Such was the passion amongst the recording team of artistes and technicians that it seemed to hang like a heavy cloth over us."

Discussing the recent talent hunt programmes he says, "I strongly believe that the programmes should be thoroughly scrutinised so that only the best come forward. It should not only be a commercial venture. The best talents of the country have always come through a range of experiences and training. Emerging artistes should be warned against the evils of cheap popularity -they can easily lead you to believe you're on top of the world when you're actually little more than a momentary 'craze'."

TV WATCH

Bipasha-Tauquir join forces this Eid

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tauquir Ahmed and Bipasha Hayat are two of the most celebrated actors of the country. Tauquir Ahmed works regularly in TV plays, but Bipasha has focused her energies on other endeavors and her appearances on screen are few and far between. This year for Eid, the couple will bring their real-life chemistry to the screen, in a tele-film titled "Pakhira Kotha Koy Poroshpor". Bipasha Hayat herself has written the screenplay, under the direction of Arif Khan.

About the story, the veteran actress-scriptwriter responded, "The plot revolves around the couple and their marriage. A good, sustainable marriage is very important in a person's life." Regarding the title of the story, Bipasha revealed that she was inspired by a line from a poem by Jibananda Das.

Tauquir Ahmed, who has worked in TV plays written by Bipasha before, shared, "I have worked in many TV plays written by Bipasha before, and this one is certainly different from the others and very unique in all aspects." Arif Khan also added, "Tauquir and Bipasha have worked together before as co-stars, but this is the first time that they will be appearing in such roles and story."

Tauquir Ahmed and Bipasha Hayat first worked together in the TV play "Sonali Roddur." Fakhru Abidin Dulal was the producer and it was telecast on BTV in the 90s.

"Pakhira Kotha Koy Poroshpor" will be telecast on SATV on Eid.



RAMADAN CHRONICLES

The humane side of NAWSHABA

ZAIMA ZAHRA

Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed is a well-known TV and film actress and voice artiste. This is a busy time for her, with a huge amount of work as Eid looms around the corner. She recently spoke to The Daily Star about how she observes the holy month of Ramadan:

Do you enjoy going out for Iftar or Sehri?

Nawshaba: I don't really go out a lot at these times, as I have to take care of my baby. Also I have a few kids staying at my place, so I mostly have my Iftar with them. Other than that, during shoots I get the opportunity to have iftar with my co-workers; that is the only iftar I get to have outside home.

Who are the kids staying over at your place?

Nawshaba: For me they are kids, but actually they are not kids anymore (laughs). They have been staying with me for almost 10 years. They came here to Dhaka from different parts of the country; I would not say I have sponsored them but I took the opportunity to provide them a shelter so that they could work or study in peace.

Do you like to give gifts for Eid?

Nawshaba: Before my marriage, Eid shopping used to be all about my needs and necessities, but now I feel Eid is more about my family's Eid. I try to make sure everyone gets similar gifts. It's not always possible because some of them are 18 years old, while some are 22 or even 24. So gifts might vary but I try to distribute them equally.

You come off as a socially-conscious person. Are you affiliated with any organisation?

Nawshaba: I am affiliated to a school named Paribartan located in Hemayatpur and few schools in Dinajpur. In these schools, me and my friends buy trees and go there to plant them. Sometimes we invite a doctor to talk to the students about sanitation, first aid and give them basic health tips. Plus, I have recently started working with Jaago Foundation as a sponsor, and through the personal initiative of me and a friend, a documentary was made for the foundation about the importance and appeal of sponsoring a less-fortunate child's education. In a way, I am giving myself a chance to work on a larger platform for the underprivileged.

What's in the pipeline on the work front?

Nawshaba: have recently finished the shoot of a film "Bhubon Majhi". Another film "Chondraboti" will be finished by next month. I am looking forward to those projects. I have also worked in Eid special tele-films "Mirar Baranda" and "Kachakachi".

Big releases on Robi Yonder ahead of Eid



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Big names of the Bangladeshi music scene -- LRB, Aurthohin, Bappa Majumder, Habib, Elita, Shunno, Nemesis, Chirkut, Kona and Zooel Morshed have released their songs and albums on popular music platform Robi Yonder music app ahead of upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr.

About LRB's single song "Cholo Jai", the band said the song was recorded in three-four different periods of time.

Rock juggernauts Aurthohin made a comeback after nearly five years with the long-awaited album "Cancer-er Nishikabyo". Songs of this album were written during the time while front-man Sumon was battling with cancer. Most of the

songs are about the band's events during that trying period.

Bappa Majumder's latest album "Boka Ghuri", also released on the app, has been a hit. The artiste, in his comments on the album, made an earnest plea to his fans to continue their support for the local music industry.

Kona is optimistic that her new song "Selfie" will be received well by her fans. Themed on fun and love, Zooel Morshed's new album "Khapchara" has already received positive reviews from fans. Zooel worked with Manam Ahmed and West Bengal-based singer Madhubanti.

Habib has released three hit songs -- "Moner Thikana", "Tumihina" and "Tomar Akash" on

the Yonder app.

Shunno has released a romantic song "Jhoriye Dao" on the popular app. Ishmam for the first time recorded with Shunno in this song. Elita's single "Khutinati" is also available on the app.

Popular band Chirkut's latest single "Ontore Bahire" is also available on the streaming service. The single is themed on the band's reflection on people's search for love.

Nemesis' spirited song "Ke Jaane Ke Bojhey?" expresses how we are so far from truth, how people are being distracted, brainwashed and misled by certain quarters in our society.

Launched last month, the Robi Yonder app has already found popularity among music lovers.

NEWS bytes

AnselElgort to star in 'Dungeons & Dragons'



AnselElgort is in early talks to star in Warner Bros.' "Dungeons & Dragons" movie about the classic role-playing game.

Elgort, who broke out in "The Fault in Our Stars," is the first actor to emerge as a star for the project. "Goosebumps" director Rob Letterman came on board last month and will direct from a script written by David Leslie Johnson.

Producers are Hasbro's Brian Goldner and Stephen Davis; Courtney Solomon and Allan Zeman of Sweetpea Entertainment; and Warner-based Roy Lee. Development began

moving forward last year after Sweetpea and Hasbro reached a settlement over sequel rights litigation.

Hasbro owns the company that first published the Dungeons & Dragons game in 1974. Sweetpea Entertainment exercised an option on film rights in the '90s and later sold those rights to Warner Bros.

Elgort's credits include the "Divergent" films. He's starring in the upcoming remake of "The Billionaire Boys Club" and "Baby Driver" from director Edgar Wright.

Source: Variety