



## Eminent novelist Mahasweta Devi under intensive care

SUBRATA ACHARYA, Kolkata

Eminent Bengali litterateur Mahasweta Devi has been undergoing treatment at Belle View Hospital in Kolkata, West Bengal. Senior doctor Shomajit Nashkar said, "Mahasweta Devi has been undergoing treatment here for quite some time, but since last Monday her health has been drastically deteriorating." The 90-year-old writer and social activist has been transferred to ICU ever since her lungs suffered complications. The Jnanpith, Padma Vibhushan and Magsaysay awardee has been suffering from age-related illnesses for a long time.

Born in 1926 in Dhaka, Mahasweta Devi has been a leading literary figure who has published books such as "Hajar Churashir Ma" and "Aranyer Adhikar" that have earned much acclaim. Her stories have been translated into English and distributed worldwide.

## "I never think of myself as a superstar" --- Noble

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

*Dashing and stylish Noble is a top rung model and promising TV actor. The evergreen Noble talked about his works and more in a recent conversation with The Daily Star:*

**Why are you seen only occasionally on TV plays?**

**Noble:** Actually, acting is not my full time profession. As I work in the corporate world, I can't fit time for acting. I'm really very lucky to be a part of showbiz because I really enjoy it.

**Do you have plans to act in films?**

**Noble:** No, with due respect to all, I have no interest to enter this arena.

**Will you try your hand at directing TV plays?**

**Noble:** Not yet but I have a plan to make TVC.

**How does it feel to be a top rung model?**

**Noble:** I really enjoy it and it is all possible because of people's love and my parents, friends and relatives' blessings. The big thing is to hold on to your position and success.

**Mou and you were very popular as an onscreen couple in the modeling world --a feat that no one has been able to replicate. How did you do it?**

**Noble:** We both worked with commitment. We loved our work. Before shooting any TVC, we did our homework thoroughly.

**How does it feel to be a big name in showbiz?**

**Noble:** I never think of myself as a superstar. I'm a very simple person and want to have people's blessings forever.

**How do you spend your free time?**

**Noble:** I usually spend it with my family but this time I plan to tour Europe during my vacation.

**Do you await anything?**

**Noble:** As I'm from the corporate world, I eagerly await weekends when I can spend the day leisurely.

**What was your childhood dream?**

**Noble:** I never wanted to be a doctor, engineer or pilot. Early on I set my heart on joining the corporate world.

**What really excites you apart from modeling?**

**Noble:** Cricket. I really feel proud when Tigers win a match.



An artwork by Abdul Mannan.

## "Sublime Beauty of Lands and Rivers" opens today at AFD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group painting exhibition titled "Sublime Beauty of Lands and Rivers" opens today at 6:30pm at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) in Dhanmondi. Queenies Art in association with AFD has organised the exhibition that is an outcome of a three-day art camp titled "Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol," held in November last year at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, Dhaka. Sponsored by Queenies Art, noted artist Nasima Khanam Queenie organised the art camp that had 19 participating artists.

Professor Abdul Mannan, former MP and Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, will inaugurate the

exhibition as chief guest. Eminent artist Jamal Ahmed and renowned sculptor Ferdousi Priyabhashini will attend the event as special guests.

The participating artists have depicted rural beauty; the charm of six seasons; marvelous landscapes with rivers and hills; cityscape on the bank of Buriganga and cultural heritage of Bangladesh. The art pieces are predominantly realistic in style.

"The artists were invited to showcase their prowess in portraying realistic works on the theme 'Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol'. It was an invigorating art camp where the artists displayed their passion as an ode to their motherland. I hope the exhibition will make a mark on art lovers," said Nasima Khanam Queenie.

Noted and promising artists --

Abdul Mannan, Reza K Chowdhury, Nasim A Nadvi, Nasima Khanam Queenie, Abdullah Al Bashir, Shamim Subrana, Laila Sharmeen, Ashraful Hasan, Uttam Kumar Roy, Azmeer Hossain, Shahnoor Mamun, Anis Mamun, Istiaque Talukder, Shohag Parvez, Md. Mehedi Hasan, Fahmida Khatun, Sultan Istiaque, Sourav Chowdhury and Zahangir Alom are participating at the exhibition.

The show is open from 3pm to 9pm from Monday to Thursday, and from 9am to 12 noon and from 5pm to 8pm (Fridays and Saturdays).

Queenies Art has previously organised three group art exhibitions and two art camps. Queenies Art has also established an art gallery where solo and group exhibitions are held.



## Anushka eyeing towards Hollywood

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, who is currently riding high on the success of her latest release "Sultan", is keen to work in Hollywood, as she thinks it would be a "great opportunity".

Other Bollywood actresses Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone have made their foray into international showbiz, and now Anushka has also shown interest in Hollywood.

In an interview Anushka said, "It would be a great opportunity to work in Hollywood, because as an actor I would want to do all kinds of work. Working in a different set-up will be interesting".

However, Anushka said she is "not actively trying to get work from outside".

"I feel today is the right time for Indians and other representations we are getting in international films... So I would like to do something where I am not playing a stereotype of an Indian and something interesting and realistic," she added.

The 28-year-old actress said that she wouldn't do something in Hollywood that she hasn't tried in the Hindi film industry.



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