

Lalon Konnya makes a comeback

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

After a long hiatus, singer Beauty of Close-Up 1 fame is finally coming through with a new album for listeners this year. Fondly given the title "Lalon Konnya" by Close-Up 1 judge Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, the singer has remained true to her deep commitment to performing Lalon songs.

The singer has revealed that the songs will be sung in the original style which she is best known for. "The songs are lesser known compositions of Lalon, but there are a couple that the listeners will be familiar with," she said, "We have targeted the album's release for Pohela Boishakh, but if we are unable to fulfill our goals by then, we have set aside Lalon Utshab, held on the Bard's death anniversary for its release."

Baul Shafi Mondol is aiding the singer in her venture, and the singer informed

that he is directing the project. "The album release was originally intended for last year," added the performer, "but was eventually delayed due to the birth of my child."

Beauty also stated that in addition to the new album, she is working on a new music video slated to air in the near future. "We have already selected the song," said the singer, "But the shooting is yet to begin."

The new album release reflects the deep sense of responsibility Beauty holds in preserving Lalon's legacy, but the vocalist revealed that she has plans to branch out in the near future. "I have never intended to showcase Lalon for its market value," she said, "I have taken it upon myself as a lifelong duty to preserve and archive the Bard's compositions. I do have the desire to sing original compositions, and I will be working on an independent, original album after my target for this year is achieved."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



"Kenya was out of this world" ... Shimu

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular actor Sumaiya Shimu has earned a reputation over the last 15 years. She has won over audiences with notable performances in TV plays. The hard-working actor is preparing for new projects this year. Recently, The Daily Star got in touch with Shimu about her life on and off screen:

What are your new ventures?
Shimu: I have wrapped up a single-episode TV play titled "Adil er Suitcase" where I play a character named Salma. It is directed by RIP Billah. We shot the play in Pubail as the play has a rural setting. Next week I will begin shooting for new TV plays again, and there is a high possibility of working in TV serials.

How has 2016 been for you?
Shimu: It wasn't a good year. I lost my father who had been suffering from a debilitating illness. His loss has left a void that I cannot fill. But life goes on, and I look forward to this year with high hopes.

What do you most enjoy in your spare time?

Shimu: It depends; sometimes I read a book, or watch a movie, or I travel. The last movie I watched was "The Proposal."

Where have you last traveled?
Shimu: I last visited Kenya. My husband accompanied me, and we spent 10 days there. It's a splendid country with so much to do and we had a great time.

What did you enjoy most from your travels in Kenya?
Shimu: I have always desired to visit the country, and to explore the deep jungles of Africa in general. The trip was nothing short of amazing. There is so much to see there...I was absolutely transfixed from the moment we stepped out from the plane. I absolutely loved Nairobi's National Park. We also spent one night in a bungalow situated deep in the forests. In the morning I woke up to see deer flitting by, very close to where I was standing. Another day I was able to see a lion up close. I was also able to visit the homes of locals; to see how they live was simply amazing. There are 43 tribes in Kenya, each with their own

customs and culture. The greenery that surrounded us no matter where we went was absolutely out of this world.

Apart from acting, is there anything else you enjoy doing?
Shimu: I love gardening. I have lots of plants and trees at my house, and there are many nurseries across the street from where I get them. Apart from those nurseries I also frequent Agargaon and Shishu Academy premises. To me, gardening is therapeutic, and I love being surrounded by greenery.

Who does the shopping in your family?
Shimu: Sometimes my husband volunteers to do it, and I take care of it on some days as well. Nobody is pressured to take up the task; whoever has time usually takes it up.

Is there a song you turn to when you are stressed or sad?
Shimu: I love songs with soft melodies, and I play them whenever I am home alone, standing in the balcony and looking out onto the street. It's something I look forward to whenever I have the house to myself.

Bappy's "An Eternal Journey" opens today at AFD

A CORRESPONDENT

A solo painting exhibition titled "An Eternal Journey" by artist Nazmul Haque Bappy, opens today at La Galerie of Alliance Française de Dhaka.

Around 30 paintings will be on display during the nine-day exhibition.

Though Oriental art originated in China and Japan, it was introduced in the Indian subcontinent with contributions from Abanindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose, Abdur Rahman Chughtai and other prominent artists. Oriental style was mainly based on watercolour washing method.

Nazmul Haque Bappy's paintings exhibit mountains, nature and animals, and blends the elements of Oriental art with realism to create a new form. He also tries to blend European-style paintings with his own to create refreshing works.

Nature and its unpredictable tendencies, birds, rivers, sea, shadows of trees, leaves are the main aspects of Bappy's paintings, which have been done with Chinese patterns employing special kinds of ink and colour.

Bappy accomplished his MFA degree with first class from Department of Oriental Art, University of Dhaka and is presently pursuing a PhD on 'Chinese Traditional Painting' at Beijing, China. He has so far achieved several awards -- including the departmental best award 2011, best medium award 2008 and Berger young painter award 2009.

The exhibition will be open till February 4, from 3pm-9pm on weekdays and 9am-12pm and 5pm-8pm on weekends, except Sunday.

Famous painter and puppeteer Mr. Mustafa Monowar will inaugurate the exhibit as chief guest. Actor, director and writer Mamunur Rashid and Prof. Nasreen Begum, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka are expected to be present as the special guests.





"Bhalobasha Amoni Hoy" releases today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned actor Tania Ahmed's directorial debut "Bhalobasha Amoni Hoy" will premiere nationwide today. Produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd, the film stars the former winner of "Fair and Handsome - The Ultimate Man" Irfan Sajjad and Bidya Sinha Mim as the main protagonists, with Mir Sabbir, Mishu Sabbir, and Tariq Anam and more in supporting roles.

Scripted by Rayhan Khan, the film was shot in Kent, London.

TV icon Mary Tyler Moore dies

Television great Mary Tyler Moore, the beloved star of "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show", died Wednesday in Connecticut, her publicist confirmed. She was 80.

The vivacious brunette performer transformed the image of women on television first as Van Dyke's sexy, vulnerable wife Laura Petrie and then as single career girl Mary Richards in her own series. Her work in the two series brought Moore five Emmy Awards, in 1965, 1966, 1973, 1974 and 1976. She won another Emmy for 1993 TV special "Stolen Babies". She combined wholesomeness and sex appeal with cracker-jack comedic timing. In many ways Moore was a throwback to Hollywood golden era leading ladies like Myrna Loy and Jean Arthur, but with a decidedly updated twist.

Moore was also a powerhouse producer via her MTM production company with then-husband Grant Tinker.

Her role as Laura Petrie, the suburban wife of comedy writer Rob Petrie, also represented a step forward for the portrayal of women on television. Though they maintained separate beds, the Petries otherwise shared an active, romantic marital life. The series made Moore a star, and she worked on films under contract at Universal. With the exception of "Thoroughly Modern Millie", in which she played third fiddle to Julie Andrews and the scene-stealing Carol Channing, the studio's attempts to fashion her in the Doris Day mold was unsuccessful. Moore also tried her hand at the Broadway stage, co-starring with Richard Chamberlain in David Merrick's musical version of Truman Capote's "Breakfast at Tiffany's".

With the help of her second husband, producer Tinker, and creators James L Brooks and Allan Burns, she fashioned a new series, "Mary Tyler Moore", which debuted on CBS in 1970 and revolutionised the sitcom. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" won the Emmy for comedy show three years in a row, was named as one of the most influential TV shows of all time on numerous lists, and was one of the first shows to tackle issues including



Source: Variety