

# Farida Parveen brings Lalon to Delhi

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

As Delhi groaned under the scorching heat of early June, the first weekend of June (2 and 3) provided a few hours of relief as Farida Parveen, one of the top practitioners of Lalon geeti, sang the mystic poet's songs at two separate functions at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, official residence of Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, and India International Centre, a cultural hub of the Indian capital.

Mukherjee received the first copies of book "Lalon Shah Fakir Ke Geet" written in Hindi by Professor Muchkund Dubey, former High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh in the late 1980s, and a DVD of selected songs of Lalon on June 3 at the auditorium at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Indian President congratulated Dubey for his pioneering work and for giving an opportunity to recognise and pay tribute to Fakir Lalon Shah. He also congratulated India's Sahitya Akademi for publishing the book and Indian Council for Cultural Relations for supporting the project of producing a DVD containing the Hindi translation of Lalon's songs done by Dubey and sung by Farida Parveen.

He expressed the hope that the translation and musical rendering of Lalon songs into Hindi would contribute in an unprecedented way to popularising the



The artist performs at the soiree.

incomparable compositions in all parts of India.

Mukherjee said "Rabindranath Tagore was the first to publish a significant number of songs of Lalon and played a central role in bringing his compositions to a wider audience. Today, Lalon geeti is in the mainstream of folk music in Bangladesh."

Bangladesh's Information Minister

Hasanul Haq Inu, also present on the occasion, said the launch of the Hindi translation of Lalon's poems and songs marks a "new historic bridge of friendship between India and Bangladesh". He said the works need to reach more and more souls as spreading of Lalon songs in Hindi begins "a new era of a secular subcontinent, free from terrorism and discrimination."

Among others present at the programme at the Rashtrapati Bhavan were Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Chairman of Bangla Academy Shamsuzzaman Khan and Bangladeshi High Commissioner to India, Syed Muazzem Ali.

Barely 24 hours before the event at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Farida Parveen and flautist Gazi Abdul Hakim performed for about 90 minutes at the Multipurpose Hall of India International Centre on June 2, mesmerising an audience of about 300 people.

Farida Parveen sang eight songs of Lalon in Bangla and Hindi (translated by Professor Dubey) alternatively. She began by belting out "Paarey Loyey Jao Amaye" in Bangla which was followed by Hindi rendering of the hugely-popular "Barir Kachey Arshinagar."

Among the other songs by Farida Parveen were "Pakhi Kokhon Jani Urey Jaye" (in Bangla), Hindi versions of "Milon Hobbe Koto Din-e" and "Khanchar Bhitor Ochin Pakhi".

Earlier, addressing the gathering, Professor Dubey, a former Foreign Secretary of India, said his interest in Lalon as a "songster, poet and sadhak" was ignited when he was posted in New York during his career as an Indian diplomat and grew when he was posted in Dhaka.

## NABILA back for more AYNABAJI



PHOTO: STAR

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Masuma Rahman Nabila first gained popularity as a TV presenter, but really broke out as a national star with her debut film "Aynabaji" that became an unprecedented hit.

And now, the actor is ready to give fans of the film potentially another glimpse into the character of Hridi, in the TV spinoff of the film that is in the works. The "Aynabaji Original Series" was announced in April to be coming to television this Eid as a series of single-episode plays, and now Nabila has been cast in one of them, directed by none other than the original film's director, Amitabh Reza.

Called "Shooting in March", the play will be shot in Pabna and will star Apurbo as well.

"I am not too keen on doing drama fictions or serials. But I have two reasons for doing this one: this is from the 'Aynabaji Series', and it is being directed by Amitabh Reza. That's why I agreed," says Nabila.

The actor, however, left a little mystery about what her character is. "Let that be a bit of a surprise," she told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Nabila will also host special Eid variety show for the first time. "Eid Anandamela" will also commence shooting soon, where popular actor Shajal will be his co-host.

Nabila said, "From an early age, I used to watch 'Anandamela', even when I was living abroad. So, it is a big deal for me to be able to anchor this year's 'Anandamela'. It's very exciting," she said.

On the other hand, Nabila is currently also hosting a programme airing on ntv. She will also be seen as a guest in an Eid programme on Banglavisión.

About Ramadan and iftar, Nabila revealed she has iftar at home on most days. While Nabila doesn't particularly fancy most items from the typical iftar menu, jilapi is something she insists on having.

## "Wonder Woman" set for \$95M-plus debut

Director Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman" is making history at the North American box office after earning \$38.9 million on Friday, its first day in theatres.

The Warner Bros. movie, starring Gal Gadot as the marquee superhero, is now headed for a weekend debut of \$95 million or more from 4,165 theaters. That would mark the biggest opening of all time for a female director, supplanting Sam Taylor-Johnson's "Fifty Shades of Grey", not adjusting for inflation.

That film debuted to \$93 million over the four-day Valentine's Day/Presidents Day weekend in 2015, including a three-day haul of \$85 million. "Wonder Woman" has already scored the biggest opening day ever for a woman director.

The film is skewing female, whereas most superhero films draw an audience that's at a least 60 percent male. Female ticket buyers on Friday made up 54 percent of the audience, according to comScore's exit polling service, while Warners put that number at 52 percent.

Overseas, "Wonder Woman" is opening in almost every major market. The film's early foreign gross through Friday is \$47.1 million from 55 markets, including \$11.7 million from China. It is doing big business in Imax theaters around the globe.

"Wonder Woman" currently has a stellar 94 percent fresh rating on Rotten



Tomatoes in a major win for Warners and DC Entertainment, whose "Man of Steel" (2013) and "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice" (2016) were largely snubbed by critics. The film, costing \$150 million to make before a major marketing spend, also marks the first time "Wonder Woman" has received her own big-screen adaptation.

The film opens as World War I pilot Steve Trevor (Chris Pine) and his plane crash on Themyscira, the island of the Amazons, where the Princess Diana (Gadot) has been trained by her aunt, the great warrior Antiope (Robin Wright). Soon, Diana leaves the island to try and stop the war, marking the begin-

ning of her transformation into Wonder Woman.

The weekend's other new offering, DreamWorks Animation's "Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie", is targeting younger tots and should place No. 2 with \$25 million after costing a modest \$38 million to produce.

Among holdovers, Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales" looks to fall 65 percent in its second weekend to an estimated \$22 million. Overseas is a different matter, where the movie remains a potent player and could beat Wonder Woman in some markets.

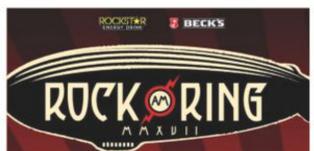
Source: THR

## NEWS bytes

### Rock am Ring reopens after bomb scare

German music festival Rock am Ring reopened Saturday after a bomb scare Friday night (June 2) forced the evacuation of 80,000 attendees who had stayed to watch Rammstein's headlining set at the Nürburgring race track.

The event was halted Friday after an individual 'of non-German origin' whom police believed to have potential ties to terrorism was found backstage with two other individuals. After questioning the three, police learned the individual's names did not match the names on their passes, Koblenz police chief Wolfgang Fromm told a news conference.



The three individuals were arrested and their apartments searched.

The scare came less than two weeks after a suicide bomber struck an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, killing 22 individuals and injuring over 100 more.

Rock am Ring is owned by Live Nation, and this year's lineup includes headliners Rammstein, Die Toten Hosen and System of a Down along with Bastille, Five Finger Death Punch, Liam Gallagher, Rag'n'Bone Man, Sum 41, Machine Gun Kelly, Prophets of Rage, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis and Pierce the Veil.

Source: Billboard



Dutt on the sets of the film.

## Fire breaks out on Sanjay Dutt's "Bhoomi" sets

### Aditi Rao Hydari escapes unscathed

Actress Aditi Rao Hydari escaped unhurt when fire broke out on the set of Sanjay Dutt's comeback film, "Bhoomi", reports PTI.

Aditi was shooting a wedding song when the blaze erupted late Thursday evening in Mumbai's RK studio. Shooting had to be stopped for the day as the makers wanted everyone on the set to be safe, a press release said.

A massive set has been put up at the RK Studio, where more than 300 dancers are part of the wedding

song, it said.

The song features Aditi and Sidhant Gupta. It is being choreographed by Ganesh Acharya.

"Bhoomi" is an emotional and sensitive revenge drama that explores the relationship between a father (Dutt) and daughter (Aditi).

Produced by T-Series and Legend Studios and directed by Omung Kumar, "Bhoomi" is set for a worldwide release on September 22.

Source: Hindustan Times


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