



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# A lifelong dedication to songs of soil

In conversation with Chandana Majumdar

ZAHANGIR ALOM

*Born in the heart of Lalon Shah's akhbari (shrine) at Kundubari, Kumarkhali in Kushtia, renowned folk singer Chandana Majumdar received pure taleem (training) of the mystic bard's songs from her father Nirmal Chandra Majumdar, a fourth-generation disciple of Lalon. Nirmal Chandra, aged 77, is now involved with Chhayanaut.*

"My father wanted me to learn Nazrul Sangeet and classical music. I did so, but later I started singing folk songs intuitively," said Chandana Majumdar in a recent conversation with The Daily Star. Chandana is a teacher at Chhayanaut's Folk Music Department. Her husband Kiran Chandra Roy is a renowned folk singer and their only daughter Shatabdi Roy is a promising folk artiste.

"Born in a musical family, I was committed to folk music. I am convinced that young singers at Chhayanaut are interested in folk music. The prevalence of folk music circling traditional festivals like Chaitra Sangkranti, Pahela Baishakh, Poush Parban, Nabanno and fairs is evident in the villages. What we see now, a new beginning of con-

ventional folk music heritage, is taking place in our city life. I personally think that we have moved away a bit from the heritage of our folk music."

"There are many talents in Bangladesh. Youngsters render our folk music through fusion with modern instruments. This is the trend of our time; but we are performing folk songs maintaining original essence and proper melody. This is our lifelong dedication towards folk music. Now it is our solemn duty to train artistes of the present generations so that they can be true to their roots. This is our first initiative to hand on the original lyrics and melody of folk music to the promising singers."

"The mystic bards of Bangladesh composed folk songs while a number of unsung

instrumentalists have been keeping our folk melodies alive through the Bangla dhol, dhak, dotara, baNshi, ektara, tabla, baya, khamak, khol and more. Many folk songs and instrumental practices are on the verge of extinction. Proper archiving of the songs, conducting research on the genre and patronage of folk instrumentalists are very necessary. It is the demand of the time. One person or a single organisation cannot do this alone. Our concerted efforts and collective cooperation at the governmental and non-governmental levels are required for this task."

"Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has now reached to the upazila level. No doubt it's a good initiative. But if we cannot ensure art practice over there with the participation

of artistes scattered across Bangladesh, the initiative will bear little fruit."

"Folk songs composed by Lalon, Bijoy Sarkar, Radharaman and other remind us of the melody of the soil. They attract us spontaneously. My latest album featuring 10 songs of Radharaman Dutta is in the pipeline. Like my previous solo album [records of Bijoy Sarkar's songs], Bengal Foundation is producing the album. I received instant responses and accolades from audiences from my previous albums. As I cannot forget my mother, I cannot forget my soil, simplicity of people and my soul. Folk music represents these things. A Lalon song 'Manush Chhara Khyapa Rey Tui Mool Harabi' clearly says it all."

## Ariana Grande to become honorary Manchester citizen

Ariana Grande will be the first person named as an honorary citizen of Manchester following the singer's "great many selfless acts and demonstrations of community spirit" in the aftermath of the city's May 22 terror attack.

"This seems a fitting moment to update the way we recognise those who make noteworthy contributions to the life and success of our city," Manchester city council leader Sir Richard Leese said.

Thirteen days after a suicide bomber killed 22 people outside of



Grande's Manchester Arena concert, the singer returned to the city to stage the One Love Manchester concert, which raised millions of dollars for the victims of the terror attack. Grande also visited injured fans in the hospital prior to the benefit concert.

Grande's honorary citizenship is part of a larger plan by the city council to update their system in which non-citizens are honored for their contributions to Manchester.

Source: Rolling Stone

## Nayeem doesn't have time for Eid shopping



PHOTO: STAR

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Nayeem is one of the busiest actors among his contemporaries on the small screen. With his candid acting, he has won the hearts of the audience, and like everyone else of the television industry, he has a hectic shooting schedule ahead of Eid.

Nayeem recently worked in an Eid play named "Shikriti" with his wife Nadia. He also recently completed TV play "Parampara", besides wrapping up shooting for Eid drama "Firey Asar Golpo".

Meanwhile, Nayeem has also shot for "The Hero" based on love triangle and "Senior Citizen" on the lifestyle of two generations which is also very strong plot, Nayeem told The Daily Star.

The actor is now in Cox's Bazar for the shoot of an Eid play under the direction of Wahid Tarique.

Apart from this hectic Eid shooting schedule, two drama serials of his are aired on Banglavisión. Of them, "Brishtider Bari" has entertained the audiences while Nayeem's character in the play has been critically acclaimed. "Chhonnokhara" has also been quite popular.

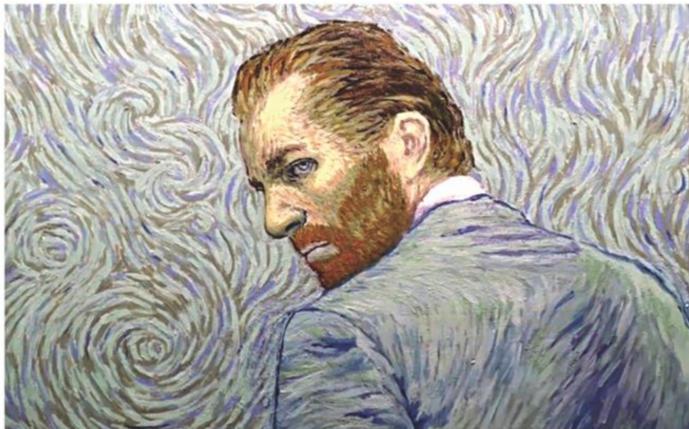
Regarding Eid shopping, the actor said "We are yet to go shopping due to our hectic schedule and after the all of this is done, I along with my family will visit the city malls."

## "LOVING VINCENT" gets standing ovation at Annecy

Annecy has been "Loving Vincent". The animated Van Gogh biopic's world premiere on Tuesday at France's Annecy Festival of the independent animated feature received a 10-minute-plus standing ovation which lasted throughout the final credit sequence and beyond.

Billed as the first-ever fully-painted feature film, and screened at the Festival's biggest auditorium, the feature-length debut of Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman received a heartfelt reception from most of its first public audience which spilt over onto social media. Among Twitter comments were: "We applaud innovative approaches to reaching Vincent"; "Vincent Van Gogh has sprung to life in animation"; "It got me, and I did cry." Prizes or none, the film looks set to become one of the most talked-about of new features this year at Annecy.

"Loving Vincent" is directed by Kobiela and co-directed by producer Hugh Welchman, producer of the Oscar-winning short "Peter & the Wolf". According to Welchman, the \$5.5 mil-



lion-budgeted "Loving Vincent" will be distributed in about 135 countries.

A fictionalised, mystery-driven biopic, "Loving Vincent" has a vibrant palette created by stop-motion oil paint brush strokes painted on canvas after the directors rotoscoped the performance of

actors.

The story plumbs the last days and still-not-completely-clarified death of the modern painting master. According to Welchman, "after reading many books and more than 800 letters written by the artist, we decided to create a plot which

includes imaginary characters."

A deeply-felt tribute, the production of "Vincent" is unlikely to become common industry practice. Shots were painted over on canvas boards frame-by-frame. "For every shot in the film, we ended up with one canvas, apart from the very long shots like the opening shot, where we had three canvases. There were about 1,000 shots in the film, so we have about a thousand paintings," said Welchman. "We have about 500 design paintings so 1,500 paintings in our studio. There are 65,000 frames. We painted at mainly 12 frames-per-second." The film required the cooperation of more than a hundred painters.

Vincent Van Gogh is already one of the world's two-or-three most popular modern painters, a near-guarantee of crowds at any major museum exhibition. With this film, his popularity is likely to grow. "Loving Vincent" will see its first commercial release in France on October 11 via La Belle Company.

Source: Variety



## Short film "Bhalobasha" set for Eid release

A CORRESPONDENT

"Bhalobasha", a short film by young filmmaker Taimur Siddique Shipu, is set for release on YouTube this Eid. The story revolves around a love story that blooms on social media.

Arko and Sinthia meet through Facebook. They talk to each other over phone and fall in love even before they

meet in person. One day, Arko, with his friend Sumon, came to Dhaka to meet Sinthia. Following that, the story of the short-film "Bhalobasha" turns a twist.

The short film will go on air on Icon Youtube BD channel on Eid Day. Produced by Icon Production House, the cast of the film includes Aphrodite Afrin Mou, Imran Ahmed Ira, Morjina Aktar Sumi, Mahim, Niladri Happy and others.

## 60 foreigners on Eid special episode of ITYADI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Ityadi" remains the premier variety entertainment show of the country for a couple of decades now, and one of the features of their special episodes is getting foreigners to participate on the show. On the Eid edition of the show this year, Ityadi brought together no less than 60 foreigners living in Bangladesh. About 25 of them will take part in dance numbers, and the others will be acting. In addition, the programme will have its regular segments.

Produced by Fagun Audio Vision and hosted by Hanif Sanket, "Ityadi" will air on BTV and BTV world on the second day of Eid, after the 10pm English news.

