

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
 Concealed
 Artist: Habiba Nowrose
 Venue: Kala Kendra
 Date: August 10-31
 Time: 5pm-8pm



Solo Musical Soiree
 Artist: Chhanda Chakrabarty
 Organiser: IGCC
 Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: August 26; Time: 6:30pm



Duet Art Exhibition
 Artists: Sayed Fida Hossain & Sultan Ishtiaque
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD
 Date: August 18-30
 Time: 3-9pm



Musical Soiree
 Marking Kazi Nazrul Islam's death anniversary
 Organiser: Chhayanaut
 Venue: Chhayanaut
 Date: August 26



Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Syed Nazmus Sakib
 Venue: EMK Center, H-5, Rd-16 (New), Dhanmondi
 Date: Aug 5-24
 Time: 5pm-8pm



THE TITAN'S EXIT FROM BANGLA FILMDOM

FELLOW ARTISTES PAY TRIBUTE TO THE NAYAK RAJ



SHAH ALAM SHAZU
 Abdur Razzak's legendary career has earned him the fond title of Nayak Raj Razzak, as well as his reputation as one of the great titans of Bangla cinema. His lifelong devotion towards the Bangladeshi film industry -- be it acting, producing and directing films -- has earned him adulations from adoring fans and fellow artistes of the industry. The passing of the legendary actor has left a deep mark on everyone, and many artistes and associates came forward to pay their tributes.

Excerpts:

Kabori, renowned film actress
 I am too pained for words and there are too many precious memories to share. We knew each other from the sets of "Sutorang", and went on to perform together in many other films such as "Moynamoti", and "Neel Akasher Nichey".
 Razzak Saheb had a unique devotion for the industry, for which he earned huge success as well as the hearts of many. Although we did not

work together for the last 20 years, we shared a close and enduring friendship. In between filming scenes, he and I would constantly squabble over petty matters, just as close friends do, but would forget everything when working in front of the camera.

I pray to the Almighty for his soul to rest in eternal peace.

Bobita, renowned film actress
 Words are not enough to express my pain. It is unbearable to talk about Nayak Raj in his absence. He is *Nayak* (Hero) to all and to me as well. Apart from this, he is my brother and guardian. I got to know him better during the course of my career, and he had an impeccable personality. The country lost Nayak Raj (The king of the Heroes) and the film industry has lost a valuable guardian.

Pijush Bandyopadhyay, eminent cultural personality
 Nayak Raj Razzak helped Bangladeshi film industry reach its highest peak. His popularity is indescribable! I have many fond memo-

ries with him. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Ujjal, noted film actor
 The birth and death of people in this world is a universal truth. However, the deeds of mankind live on as legacies. Nayak Raj Razzak will continue to live on era after era. There are very few as dedicated as him, and his works will continue to encapsulate the hearts of generations.

Ferdous, popular film actor
 We lost the greatest guardian of our film industry and our country at large. His passing was very sudden to us all. Hearing the news, I rushed to the hospital and later to his residence. For the first time I passed time at his residence without him on August 21. I do not have words to express my grief.

Purnima, popular film actress
 My father died when I was quite young, but Nayak Raj Razzak would regard me as his daughter and showed much affection. I am stunned by his demise, and I cannot believe that he is no more. My only prayer is that may Allah grant him Jannat.



IN HIS HALCYON DAYS ... RAZZAK SHARES WORLD WITH HIS CO-STARS



In his own words...



STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Formally known as Abdur Razzak, the legendary actor has been a torch bearer, an exemplary model, and the face of change in the world of Bangladeshi cinema. He has also worked as a director and producer during his time with the industry. His incomparable skills in front of the camera had the world call him 'Nayak Raj', a name given to him by Ahmed Zaman Chowdhury, editor of Chitrali. His first work in front of the camera was for the film "Shilalipi". He won the nation over through his exceptional acting in "Rangbaj", where he took acting to newer heights. Abdur Razzak's life was nothing short of one worth celebrating every day. In this piece, we will see how Nayak Raj celebrated his own life in his own words...

On the last birthday he celebrated aged 76, Razzak shared with us his memories of the birthdays he had celebrated at the prime of his career. "I used to be extremely busy then, and used to celebrate it with the rest of the film industry. The arrangements were quite elaborate, and I don't know if any other actor had such grand celebrations. I would realise the appreciation and love my colleagues had for me on this day each year, and I am always overwhelmed by it."

The love his colleagues had for him

was no surprise to anyone. But his fans always held a special place in his heart. "The most valuable gift I can ever get is love from the people. What else can be greater than that? My wealth and means, the food on my table, it all came from working in films. The love and appreciation people have for me is what kept me going and it is the greatest joy and gift in my life. All I want is people's love and respect. I pray to God to keep me in good health, and I seek love and prayers from everyone."

Nayak Raj was one who loved

celebrating his life with the people who mattered to him the most, and with a heart as big as his, there were many who mattered to him. Yet, death was something that had affected his life before it came to him. "There are many people I remember fondly on my special days, from old colleagues to friends, some of who are sadly no more in this world. Each person has an appointed time in this life, and death comes for us all. I can never forget the faces I have once known, and I can never

shake off the thoughts of where we all are today, even more so on my birthdays. It makes me immensely sad, but such is life."

With the legacy he left behind, his belief in cinema and the industry was paramount. "I can never imagine my existence without film, and I hope to God that I pass from this world while still working. I just want one thing. I would like to see Bangladeshi cinema turned around for the better before I pass. I would like for it to go back to the way it was during its golden years."

The final farewell

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The thick crowd at FDC and Shaheed Minar were impenetrable as everyone flooded in to catch a last glimpse of the beloved actor Nayak Raj Razzak. The proceedings began at FDC at 11am as his body was carried in through the gates. Minister of Information Hasanul Haq Inu was among the key members present at the premises.

Actors and admirers arrived on the scene with flowers and bouquets to pay their respects. The atmosphere was heavy with grief as noted actors spanning several generations, such as Bobita, Champa, Shuchanda and Bubly, broke down near his coffin.

The grieving crowd was joined by Kabori Sarwar, a noted actress known for pairing up with the late actor in most film ventures. Actor Hasan Imam appeared thereafter to express his condolences.

The crowd grew massively as the day wore on. "This is a great sign of the lasting impact he has made on everybody, and the great love we all possess for him," said Debashish Biswas.

"When actor Manna left all of us, we thought FDC had seen the biggest crowd in its history.



Countless have poured in again at Nayak Raj Razzak's final farewell," said several actors on the scene.

A janaza prayer followed, involving only the members of the film industry and other close acquaintances. The late actor's son Bapparaj

opened the ceremony with a speech about his father.

The event was followed by a final viewing of Razzak at Shaheed Minar for all admirers and followers of the late great actor. The initiative was arranged by Sammilita Sanskritik Jote.