

Cultural Event
Title: Bonniskha's 12th Anniversary
Organisation: Bonniskha
Venue: Shakhat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library
Date: November 26; Time: 5:30pm



Group Print Exhibition
Title: Nature Quest
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, H-115, L-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Nov 10-30
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Painting exhibition
Title: Memories Beyond Time
Artist: Syed Jahangir
Venue: Abinta Gallery of fine arts
Date: Nov 11-Dec 01
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Mystery of Innocence
Artist: Khandkar Nasir Ahmed
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, Rd-6, H-4, Dhanmondi
Date: Nov 24-Dec 8
Time: 10am-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Joloi-3
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: November 17-28
Time: 3pm-8pm



THE EXIT OF A FLAUTIST AND FOLK LEGEND

The musical world of Bari Siddiqui under spotlight

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

Eminent folk singer and flautist Bari Siddiqui passed away around 2am on November 24 at the capital's Square Hospital. He was 63. Following his Namaz-e-Janaza at Dhaka University's Central Mosque and his workplace Bangladesh Television, he was laid to eternal rest at his birthplace in Netrokona after Asr prayers yesterday.

During his illustrious music career, the folk legend lent his voice to many popular folk songs. His recorded songs like "Suachan Pakhi Ami Dakitachi Tum Ghumaichho Naki", "Ami Ekta Jinda Laash" and "Maa Go Maa Ji Go Ji" are extremely popular far and wide. He has many albums including "Oporadhi Hoileo Ami Tor", "Dukkho Roilo Mon-e" and "Matir Deho", "Matir Malikana", "Bhalobashar Boshobbari", "Poraner Pakhi", "Bhadro Masher Purnima", "Antor Jwala", "Andhara Khunji Tomaye", "Chandro Debi", "Lokhikho Tara", "Sorola" and "Dukkho Dile Dukkho Pabi" to his credit.

Years ago, the artiste in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star shared many aspects of his life and his own world of music. Following is the story of the mystic folk bard:

Bari Siddiqui's love for the flute began at the age of five when his elder brother returned home from the weekly *haat* with a small *banshi*. Little did he know that one day, he would be recognised as an eminent musician across the country. In fact, Bari's reputation extends beyond Bangladesh; he has performed and conducted workshops in France, Switzerland, Malaysia, Pakistan, Iran and Singapore.

Bari Siddiqui comes from a family of musicians. His formal vocal training began at the age of 12 under Gopal Dutt of Netrokona. His career took off in earnest in 1981, when the renowned Ustad Aminur Rahman spotted Bari during a concert, and offered to tutor him. Ustad Aminur Rahman was a direct disciple of Pandit Panna Lal Ghosh (1911-1960), the pioneer flautist who popularised the classical flute in the subcontinent.

For the next six years Bari trained under Rahman. His Ustad's house was frequented by the contemporary legends. "Devendra Muddreshwar, Director of All India Radio, (also the son-in law of Pandit Panna Lal Ghosh),

VG Karnaad, Daagar Brothers, Mohiuddin Veenkaar, Ustad Asad Ali Khan Veenkaar, Pandit Sriram Tewari and many other stalwarts would often come to perform and stay as guests of honour in Aminur Rahman's house. Barrister Tawfique Newaz, son of Rahman would train me in the different technical aspects of Alaap," said Bari Siddiqui in

rehearsing his lessons for hours at end.

After graduating from Dhaka University, Bari joined BTV in 1985. Besides playing the flute, he also slowly shifted to music direction and vocal performances.

"A flute piece to a song is like a glittering necklace on a lady complementing and augmenting her innate



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

a previous interview. "At one stage I went over to Pune and received professional tutelage under VG Karnaad," he added.

Being in an environment surrounded by music maestros, Bari, not surprisingly spent his waking hours immersed in music, either listening to the greats or

beauty. However, lately I felt that my capabilities were not fully utilised as an accompanist. Therefore, I grabbed the offer to sing in Humayun Ahmed's film. I was conferred with the BACHASAS award for my music direction in the film 'Sraban Megher Din' for the song 'Shua Chan Pakhi', said the artiste.

In reply to a question on what the difference was between the Indian and European flute, Bari Siddiqui explained, "Indian music comes from silence whereas the European, from sound. The Indian way is definitely more melodious with *meend*, (the sweet curves and filigree works) and more natural. The European style is slightly restless. The European flute is known as the Silver Flute, and ours is the typical natural bamboo flute."

The one concern Bari had was that the flute might become a dying art because of the industry's inability to draw new talent. As a performing art, it does not even have a place in any National Awards category.

Despite his concerns, Bari continued to play with a passion till the last days of his life. He performed and continued to develop his skills like any true artiste at heart. In the process, he continued to enthral his audience and treated them to the intricacy and intensity for which he had won acclaim.

"Do bring your flute along when you come next time," I requested Abdul Bari Siddiqui. In spite of his busy schedule, he had kept his word. The melodious Raga Brindaboni Sarang he played in between, unsurprisingly soon drew an audience into my office.

"The flute has six holes cut out smoothly in a bamboo. The instrument is difficult to master. One has to be adept in placing the fingers to produce the perfect notes. Which is why, even in India one would hardly find more than 20 flautists and about not more than four professional players," he pointed out.

"The two varieties of flute are 'Mohon Bashi' and the 'Aar Bashi,' which range from 7 inches to 5 feet. The flute was used previously in accompaniment to folk songs. Pandit Panna Lal Ghosh used the flute in Hindustani classical music. He developed a longer *bansuri* (flute), 5 feet in length, to generate lower sounds and more subtle expressions, while the short *bansuri* was used for folk songs," concluded the artiste.

In a larger perspective, Bari Siddiqui's ties with the flute can truly be considered as an integral component of the tradition set by Krishna for Radhika. In essence, Siddiqui was, and is, the embodiment of the cultural legacy which underscores aesthetics in our part of the world.



New roles for SHAKIB KHAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaliwood hero Shakib Khan is always on the go, and currently the actor has signed onto work in two new films. The popular actor is slated to play the lead role in the upcoming "Nolok", helmed by Rashed Raha, for which filming will commence next month in Hyderabad, India.

Playing his on-screen romantic interest is popular actress Bobby, and Shakib Khan has stated that he has high hopes for the

film. "I try to bring something new with each performance, and I will continue to do the same here," he said.

The actor is also slated to appear in "Boyfriend", directed by Uttom Akash. The team is currently in talks to sign West Bengal actress Srabonti on for the female lead.

Shakib Khan is currently wrapping up "Ami Neta Hobo" with Bidya Sinha Mim, and has begun filming for "Chittagainga Poa, Noakhaila Maiyya" alongside Bubly.

Captain Marvel

Jude Law lands male lead opposite Brie Larson

Jude Law is in negotiations to play the male lead opposite Brie Larson in Marvel's "Captain Marvel," sources tell Variety.

Ben Mendelsohn is on board to play the villain with "Half Nelson" helmers Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck directing. Kevin Feige is producing. Marvel had no comment.

Geneva Robertson-Dworet wrote the most recent script with "Inside Out" scribe Meg LeFauve and Nicole Perlman penning previous drafts, which follows Carol Danvers, an Air Force pilot whose DNA is fused with that of an alien during an acci-



petition submitting video contents on education, acting, music, dancing, lifestyle and various other subjects.

Nasif and Rafid were selected as winners on the basis of the judges' decision and audience likes. Rasel Topu, an entertainment video content maker and Sadman Sadiq, an educative video content maker took the second and third positions respectively. Winners received Tk 1.5 lakh in cash along with a scope for training at Google's Asia-Pacific HQ and the opportunity to be the digital ambassador of Banglalink. Salman Muktadir, Shouvik Ahmed, Tamim Mridha and Asif Bin Azad -- four popular YouTubers of the country -- were the judges of the show.

The gala was telecast on ntv yesterday at 9pm.

Banglalink Next Tuber crowns winners

The Grand Finale of Banglalink Next Tuber -- the country's first digital reality show -- was held on Friday in Dhaka, crowning Ahnaf Nasif and Rafid Mahadi, members of rap-battle based video content channel Fusion Production as the winners.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor was present at the event as chief guest, according to a press release. Sanjay Vaghasia, Chief Digital Officer of Banglalink; Mustafa Kamal Syed, Head of Programme, ntv; and Md. Rezaul Huq, CEO of Radio Foorti, were also present at the occasion.

Launched with a view to inspire young video content makers, the show received responses from all over the country. Winners were selected from more than 9,000 contestants after a rigorous selection process. The contestants took part in the com-

petition submitting video contents on education, acting, music, dancing, lifestyle and various other subjects.

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dent. The resulting alteration imbues her with the superpowers of strength, energy projection, and flight.

Law will be playing Doctor Walter Lawson, a.k.a. Mar-Vell, who becomes a mentor of sorts to Danvers as she tries to figure out her new powers.

At this year's San Diego Comic-Con, Feige announced that the superhero film will be set in the '90s, before the Avengers ever thought of assembling, and Samuel L. Jackson is expected to reprise his role as Nick Fury.

The film is expected to bow on March 8, 2019.

This would mark the second major tentpole part Law has landed this year after getting the role of young Albus Dumbledore in "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald." He is also still attached to star in a third "Sherlock Holmes" film, which Warner Bros. is currently developing.

Law just wrapped shooting Woody Allen's next movie, starring Elle Fanning, and is about to start shooting the spy thriller "The Rhythm Section" opposite Blake Lively. He is repped by WME, Julian Belfrage Associates, and attorney Karl Austen.



Ayushmann Khurrana to star in Junglee Pictures' "Badhaai Ho"



Fresh on the back of the success of "Bareilly Ki Barfi", Junglee Pictures and Ayushmann Khurrana are all set to come together once again. The actor is going to appear in their next film "Badhaai Ho". The film will be directed by Amit Sharma, who has helmed over 1000 ad films.

"Badhaai Ho" is a coming-of-age story of a family as it grapples with some unexpected news. The film follows the impact of the news on the family and how the members deal with it in their own way. Confirming the news, Ayushmann said, "I had a fantastic experience collaborating with Junglee Pictures for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi' and working with them on 'Badhaai Ho' is going to be exciting. The story that Amit tells is typically Indian with dollops of quirky humour. I look forward to a family film that is innovative and entertaining."

Meanwhile, the film's co-producer Priti Shahani said, "Our release for this year, 'Bareilly Ki Barfi', received much love from the audience. It has been fantastic working with Ayushmann and we are now looking forward to collaborate with him again on 'Badhaai Ho'. Amit is an exceptional director as is evident from his body of work. We couldn't have asked for a better team coming together to tell this story."

Produced by Junglee Pictures and Chrome Pictures, "Badhaai Ho" will roll in Delhi by the end of January 2018.