



Baby Akhter



Jude Kelly, Captain Afsana Shahin, Barbara Wickham OBE and Rafiath Rashid Mithila



Elita Karim



The Kathmandu Killers



A stellar dance performance



F Minor and Ghaashphoring Choir

PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

WOW Dhaka 2019 concludes

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

The first ever Women of the World (WOW) festival in Dhaka recently ended at the Bangla Academy premises with a concluding ceremony, followed by an energetic concert. Barbara Wickham, OBE, country director of the British Council in Bangladesh, Jude Kelly,

Founder of WOW Foundation, Rafiath Rashid Mithila, Head of Early Childhood Development programme in BRAC International, and Captain Afsana Shahin, one of the speakers of WOW Dhaka Rajshahi Chapter, spoke at the inauguration ceremony.

The concert put a befitting end to the

festival. The theme of the concert, coordinated by Armeen Musa, was a fictional society, run by matriarchy.

The Kathmandu Killers, from Nepal, lifted everyone's mood in the beginning with their punk rock songs.

Armeen's project, The Ghaashphoring

Choir, then enchanted the crowd with their fusion-filled renditions of popular Bangla tracks. F Minor, an all-girl band from the hill tracts, singer Sovvota and folk singer Baby Akhter, were equally impressive throughout the entire show. Elita Karim's song *Urey Jetei Chai* added an inspiring note to the concert, which

ended with the choral performance of the theme song, *Shurjo*, by composed by Tinu Rashid. All of the performers in the wonderful concert got together to sing this uplifting song, which sent a clear message: impossible is nothing for women of the world.

A walk down the memory lane ENAMUL HAQUE reminisces old times



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Veteran actor Enamul Haque has been a part of the arts and entertainment industry for over five decades, working in television, films, theatre as well as radio. He earned his PhD degree from the University of Manchester in 1976 in the field of synthetic organic chemistry. In 2012, Haque, who is also a retired professor at the Department of Chemistry at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, earned the esteemed Ekushey Padak for his career. However, such accomplishments have not slowed him down, as he continues to be a busy actor and a regular favourite on the screen. In a recent interview with *The Daily Star*, the artiste looks back on his life.

Haque, who was born in Feni, lost his mother at the tender age of one and was brought up by his paternal aunt, whom he addressed as his 'maa.' He studied at Bindu Basini Govt Boys' High School in Tangail, where he has fond childhood memories of bonding with his family and watching films.

"My uncle was a policeman. He got told of a notorious robber called Himu and shot him on the leg," asserts Haque. "He brought Himu to

Tangail afterwards. We all went together to see the criminal." Haque also resided in Chaadpur for a while and enjoyed his journeys by trains to different places from there.

He further talked about his student life. "I really admired my English teacher, Alam sir. Once, my friend, Motaheer, could not answer a question that Alam sir had asked us during his lecture. I could answer it, so, Alam sir made me punish my friend by pulling his ears," laughs Haque. "Motaheer was quite angry with me because of that."

He lived at Notre Dame College in Dhaka, where he lived with his paternal uncle. He enjoyed travelling to college on foot and on his bicycle from time to time. "I loved going to Shabistan and Rang Mahal to watch films with my friends," he says. "In particular, we watched films of Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen, as well as Hindi films."

Haque completed his bachelor's and master's in Chemistry from The University of Dhaka. He took part in several theatrical productions, including Rabindranath Tagore's *Raktakarabi* in 1965, as well as the student politics of the university during his time there.



After serving two years as the general secretary, television stalwart Iresh Zaker was recently elected as the president of the Television and Digital Programme Producers Association of Bangladesh, while Muntasher Mamun Saju was appointed as the new general secretary. Cultural personality Syed Hasan Imam was the principle election commissioner during the vote, which took place at a convention centre in Gulshan recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Nobonita's rendition of 'Roop Dekhilam' video released at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Journalist and singer Nobonita Chowdhury's recent music video, *Roop Dekhilam*, was officially released on April 6 at Isfendiyar Zahed Auditorium of the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro. Prominent personnel of art and culture arena of the country gathered to celebrate the release of the music video.

Some well-known songs of the maestro, Hason Raja, have been rendered by Nobonita Chowdhury, and compiled in her second album, *Ahare Sonali Bondhu*. The music for the album has been composed by Labik Kamal Gaurob. The album will soon be released, under the banner of G Series. The Chief Guest of the programme, Chairman of Bengali Foundation, Abul Khayer, was present at the programme, along with the owner of G-Series, Nazmul Haque Bhuiyan, journalist Munnisa Saha, Bengal Foundation Director General Luva Nahid Choudhury, filmmaker Wahid Tareq among other renowned personalities.

"I'm pleasantly surprised by her pas-



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

sion for music and I genuinely hope she considers doing music regularly from now on," said Abul Khayer during his speech.

Nobonita Chowdhury, known for her powerful journalistic approach, nurtures a passion for music in her heart. She considers music maestro Waheedul Haque as her mentor. She was a young participant in talent show, *Notun Kuri*. Her first album, *Ami Jontro Tumi Jontree* - a compilation of Lalou songs was released in 2007, and the music for the

album was arranged by the legendary musician, Ayub Bachchu.

Nazmul Haque Bhuiyan mentioned, "Rarely do you find musicians who can indulge themselves into music completely. I have found it in Nobonita. The music arrangement by Labik Kamal Gaurob is praiseworthy, because he has done it with utmost sincerity."

"The album is as old as my relationship with Couroub. It was music that brought us closer," said Nobonita about her second album.