

<p><b>WHAT'S ON</b></p> <p><b>Art Exhibition</b> Title: Speed of Color by Khurshid Alam Saleem Venue: Shilpangan, Lalmatia Date: July 27 - August 7 Time: 3 pm - 8 pm</p>	<p><b>Group Art Exhibition</b> Title: Prologue 1 Venue: Dhaka Gallery, Banani Date: Jul 13 - Aug 9 Time: 3 pm - 8 pm</p>	<p><b>Photography &amp; Poetry Exhibition</b> Title: ProjectDebi: Revolutionary Photography And Poetry Exhibition Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi Date: August 26 - 28 Time: 10 am - 7 pm</p>	<p><b>Theatre</b> Title: Aleya Twist Venue: British Council Bangladesh &amp; BSA Date: August 6 &amp; 7 Time: Aug 6 at 7 pm at British Council, Fuller Road; Aug 7 at 7 pm at BSA</p>	<p><b>Art Exhibition</b> Title: Muhurtama solo art exhibition by Shamsat Tabreej Venue: Dwp Gallery, Lalmatia Date: July 27 - August 22 (except Mondays) Time: 5 pm - 9 pm</p>
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PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Paeans to Muhammad Jahangir

## Nrityanchal remembers the media personality

**ZAHANGIR ALOM**

The entire lobby, entrance and the front stage of the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy was enlivened with the portraits of renowned journalist, writer and cultural personality, Muhammad Jahangir. The adorned bouquets and lighted candles circling the portraits evoked the physical absence of the media personality, but the soulful words and emotive expressions on Muhammad Jahangir by the eminent personalities repeatedly affirmed the vivacious presence of the deceased, who is still alive in his great deeds.

It was a truly befitting programme that was arranged to pay homage to Muhammad Jahangir, who was the chief coordinator of Nrityanchal, and took the dance organisation to a great heights. A number of Nrityanchal artistes soulfully dance to the Tagore song *Tumi Robey Nirobey* in remembrance of the beloved personality.

Nrityanchal director duo Shibli Muhammad and Shameem Ara Nipa expressively revisited the fond memories of Muhammad Jahangir and called the country's towering cultural personalities on stage to pay their tributes to the media personality. "Muhammad Jahangir was junior to me. When my affectionate younger ones pass



Sadi Mohammad with his troupe Rabirag paying tribute to Muhammad Jahangir.

away, I feel a sense of guilt in my heart. Back in 1969, I met Jahangir in Chittagong and I wrote a letter to Professor Munier Chowdhury, the then Chairman of the Department of Bangla, University of Dhaka. Jahangir's scholarly acts and creativity found a congenial atmosphere to flourish, when he was admitted to the department," said National Professor Anisuzzaman. "His success as a journalist is beyond question. He wrote many books on mass media and contemporary social issues. Jahangir would deeply think on society and culture. He had great love and emotion for art forms, including theatre and dance. We will uphold the love that Jahangir felt for art. He

will be permanently embedded in our hearts." Renowned thespian Ramendu Majumdar said, "Once I said to Jahangir that if someone publishes a memorial book on me after my death, then you will, of course, edit the book. Alas! I am now to speak on him in his memorial programme!" "Muhammad Jahangir was a man of soul. Prior to Nrityanchal, he was involved with us regarding organising an international film festival, named the *Film for Friendship*. Not only had that he brought out a fantastic souvenir for the festival. He knew how to appreciate positivity. He would inspire me to write. When one of my write-ups on

the Boston International Film festival was published in Prothom Alo, he praised me immensely. Jahangir *bhai* had a great thirst for diverse knowledge. Wherever he is, I pray to the Almighty, to keep him in eternal peace," said legendary actor Sarah Begum Kabori.

Renowned thespian Aatur Rahman said, "Birth is a matter of celebration for every person. I think, death, in a sense, is a matter of celebration as well. I would like to celebrate Jahangir's good deeds that he has left for us." Eminent artist and cultural personality,

Mustafa Monwar echoed the same spirit that Aatur Rahman expressed. He quoted Rabindranath Tagore and hinted that soil can eat up a person's physique, but it cannot swallow up a person's creativity. "Muhammad Jahangir will be ever remembered and alive in his good deeds," said Mustafa Monwar.

Eminent singer Sadi Muhammad was at an emotive loss, and could not utter any words in his tribute. He paid a musical tribute to the great personality, rendering a choral Tagore song *Tomar Ashim-e* along with his fellow singers of Rabirag.

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, Mamunur Rashid, renowned theatre personality, and one of Muhammad Jahangir's friends, Chinmoy Mutsuddi shared their fond memories on him. Later, the family members of Muhammad Jahangir took the stage and the deceased's sibling Muhammad Ibrahim and Rehana Akhter, wife of Muhammad Jahangir, spoke at the programme. The soulful rendition of songs, together with dance presentations by the artistes of Nrityanchal, kept the magnanimity of the programme till the very end. Dance presentation with the Tagore song *Jokhon Porbe Na Mor Payer Chinho* wrapped up the wonderful memorial programme.



Shibli Mohammad and Shameem Ara Nipa hosted the programme.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

## Many happy returns, BABITA!

**SHAH ALAM SHAZI**

Today marks the birthday of celebrated actor Babita. Having worked in more than 300 films over the years, the internationally acclaimed artiste is a household name to this day. Babita, who has been away from the silver screen for a while, enjoys gardening in her spare time. She is not celebrating her birthday in a grand way this year. "I have no specific plans for today. My son and most of my loved ones are out of the country right now, and many of my relatives have gone for Hajj," Babita informs *The Daily Star*. "Special birthday messages from my son and relatives will be enough to make my day."

Babita also spoke fondly about the best birthday memories of her childhood, stating that her parents never missed out on getting cakes, sweets and new clothes for her on her special day. "I am thinking about my parents. Things would have surely been different if they were alive today," she says. "Looking back, I am also grateful to Zahir Raihan and Satyajit Ray, two filmmakers who played important roles in my success as an artiste."

## Re-reading Ritwik Ghatak's 'Ajantrik'

**PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY**

"What does *Ajantrik* mean? I don't know, and I believe no one at the Venice Film Festival knew either. I cannot tell the whole story of the film. There was no subtitle for the film. But I saw the film spellbound till the very end," film critic Georges Sadoul had said these words after watching *Ajantrik*. I had a déjà vu moment as I walked into the Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall of Bengal Shilpalay.

From Subodh Ghosh's formidable literature, Ritwik Ghatak's reels to the white space of the gallery, the man-machine relationship has always been a bewildering concept. Curator Zihan Karim intended to experiment with the unprejudiced affair, and reread the film from multiple angles. He shared his concept with a group of artists, architects, theater artistes, and the resultant is a beautiful conversation on the walls of the gallery. An understanding of the human condition where logic meets imagination and judgement meets sentiment was, therefore, a captivating experience.

Ghatak's *Ajantrik* is a popular film among most Bengali families. However, the concept of rereading a film within a gallery space, is rather unheard of. Much like the absence of the subtitle, the names of the artists and the artwork could not be found, other than on the gallery map. The subtle treatments made the exhibition a perfect tribute to the master filmmaker.

The gallery is a wonderland with the smallest theater performance by Fame, an interactive video installation

by Fahim Hasin Sahan, a monumental installation by Eshita Mita Tonni, Three Channel Video, photo montage, and installation by Razib Datta, Video installation by Palash Bhattacharjee, One Channel Videos by Hassan Mamun, Kumar Biswas and Munem Wasif.

My personal favourite, however, was Munem Wasif's *Machine Matter*. A One

car *Lohar Bachha*. Munem Wasif's film expressed similar conversation through silence. The dichotomy is, however, seen in Razib Datta's work. The pixelated characters were the way emphasise that logic and emotions maybe separate entities. He juxtaposes the oriental Boraq with Gogh's *Starry Night* giving a third concept. It is from a series where



PHOTO: COURTESY

Channel Video set in an abandoned jute factory. The close shot of the thumping chest of the man while the machines stood still readily, reminded me of the scene from the film where Bimal loads stones and has a heated conversation with Jogodall in the rickety 1920's vintage *Chevrolet Jalopy*. The machine, instead of going forward, runs back. Bimal, with utmost anger, calls the

artist practices cinematic montage concept.

As a whole, the concept of film reading in this manner was an interesting experience. Just like the master filmmaker would say, "*Bhabo bhabo, bhabar practice koro*" (Think, rethink, and practice thinking). A visit to the exhibition, which runs till August 3, will certainly be worthwhile.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

## ANKITA wins Zee Bangla's 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa'

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

After several months of an entertaining musical journey, the latest season of Zee Bangla's popular reality show, *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa*, aired the grand finale on Sunday night. The programme was held at Bishwa Bangla Convention Centre in Kolkata.

Ankita Bhattacharyya was



PHOTO: STAR

**Noble** announced as the champion of the competition. Noted singer Sukhwinder Singh, who was a guest at the grand finale, praised Ankita's skills as a singer.

Bangladesh's Mainul Ahsan Noble, who won the hearts of millions with his melodious voice throughout the show, shared the third position with Preetam Roy. On the other hand, Singdhajit Bhowmik and Gourab Sarkar were joint winners of the second spot.

Noble, who was dubbed as the "Wonder Boy" throughout the contest, topped the Viewers' Choice list. He garnered a huge fan following both at his home country and the West Bengal. The show was judged by music composer Shantanu Moitra and singers Monali Thakur and Srikanth Acharjee.

A total of seven participants from Bangladesh took part in the competition this year.



Rangs Electronics Ltd, the official distributor of Sony in Bangladesh, recently handed over crests and gifts to the winners of 'Boishakhi Music Contest - Powered by Rangs Desi Karaoke' at the Sony flagship Store in Bashundhara City Shopping Mall. Anjan Kumar Kundu, Head of Marketing, NTV, Tanvir Hossain, General Manager, Marketing & Sales of Rangs Electronics Ltd and Hamza Anwar, Karaoke Specialist, Assistant Professor, Sylhet Metropolitan University, jointly inaugurated the prize giving ceremony.

PHOTO: COURTESY