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## 20 years of Adity Mohsin

### Celebrations today at KIB Auditorium

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Eminent Indian actor Soumitra Chatterjee once spoke highly of Adity Mohsin while he was listening to the singer live in Kolkata, India. "Right now, Adity is the best Tagore singer in both West Bengal and Bangladesh," he had said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the Desikottam Award from Visva Bharati University on 28 January, 1999. At that special convocation ceremony, Adity performed a solo song, *Koto Ajanarey Janaile Tumi*. The performance was aired live on Doordarshan and Bangladesh Television (BTV), simultaneously. Her performance won the hearts of countless music lovers across the borders.

The following month, the singer returned to Bangladesh and joined Chhayanaut as a teacher after eminent Tagore exponent Waheedul Haq encouraged her. The following year, Bengal Foundation produced her first album, *Amar Mon Cheye Roy*. Waheedul Haq wrote on the cover of album, "S/he who sings for life, s/he is the soul of his/her song. I wish Adity will carry forward the musical legacy of her mother-like Guru Kanika Banerjee to new lands, new people and new offshores".

Adity Mohsin told *The Daily Star* that Tagore songs are not merely meant for entertainment, but rather to carry the spirit of spirituality and a deep sense of life and accomplishment. "Rabindranath is an inevitable part of our culture. His songs are practically impossible to sing properly, if one cannot comprehend the depth of the lyrics," she said.

When Adity was studying English at University of Dhaka, she received an ICCR scholarship. Her father, Nur Mohsin Khan, inspired her to pursue a degree from Visva Bharati University. Her mother Hosne Ara Khan encouraged her to learn music when

she was young.

To celebrate Adity Mohsin's illustrious twenty-year career in music, a programme, titled *Arun Alor Anjali*, will take place today at 6 pm at the Krishibid Institute Auditorium, in Dhaka. The Prime Minister's Political Adviser, H T Imam, will attend the event as chief guest. Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Riva Ganguly Das and distinguished cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, will be present as special guests. Theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar, who is also the president of the celebration committee, will preside over the programme, where Adity Mohsin will perform her favourite songs composed by Tagore, DL Roy, Atulprasad Sen and Rajanikanta Sen.

Other honourable members of the committee are Anisul Haque, Abdul Hai Sarker, Engineer Rabiul Alam, M Hamid, Mamunur Rashid, Muhammad A (Rumi) Ali, Luva Nahid Choudhury, Sitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury, Sadya Afreen Mallick, Syed Mahbubur Rahman and Hashem Khan.

Adity, even after 20 years in music, feels like she still has a long way to go. "Because of the blessings from my fans and loved ones, my journey was a smooth one," she says. "It was not an easy task, especially as a woman, to move forward and to practice music in our times."

The magnanimous presence of the towering personalities in Santiniketan influenced Adity's musical and personal life. "I used to see a lot of great people living a simple life there. The affection and blessings of the great artists and people around the Santiniketan have influenced my life immensely. I am grateful to my Gurus -- Kanika Banerjee, Nilima Sen, Manju Bandyopadhyay, Arup Ratan Bandyopadhyay and Mohan Singh Khangura," she says.

## Artist Mahmudul Haque receives Japan's 'The Order of the Rising Sun' honour

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned artist Professor Mahmudul Haque received Japan's 'The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon' honour for his immense contribution in strengthening cultural exchanges between Japan and Bangladesh through promoting modern art. The award ceremony was held at Ambassador Ito Naoki's residence in Dhaka, on December 4. The Ambassador Ito Naoki expressed his sincere appreciation to Professor Haque for his longstanding contribution in promoting friendly relations between Japan and Bangladesh through his work. KM Khalid, State Minister for Cultural Affairs, graced the ceremony as the chief guest. Eminent artists Monirul Islam, Mohammad Eunus, Nisar Hossain, Jamal Ahmed, Mohammad Iqbal and Anissuzaman Anis, among others, were also present.

The Order of the Rising Sun is the first national decoration of Japan, established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji. The Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon is a class within that order. Every year, the Government of Japan honours distinguished citizens of the country for their valuable contributions towards uplifting the image of Japan and for making significant strides in the service of humanity. The list also includes the names of numerous foreign nationals who help bridge the gap between their respective communities and Japan,



(From left) Ambassador Ito Naoki, Professor Mahmudul Haque and KM Khalid.

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through their work in different fields. Professor Haque is the tenth Bangladeshi to receive this prestigious honour from the Government of Japan.

The artist obtained a master's degree in Fine Arts from Tsukuba University in 1984 and has been teaching at the Department

of Printmaking of the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, for decades. He was also the Director General of Bangladesh National Museum and Chief Coordinator of Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, one of the oldest and most prestigious art biennales in Asia.



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## BITA stages 'Jaal' at TIC

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, from Chattogram

Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts (BITA) staged the play, *Jaal*, on the occasion of their silver jubilee at Theatre Institute Chattogram (TIC), recently. A large audience attended the programme.

BITA aims to shed light on the inequality and deprivation that women come across in

the society, through theatrical productions. *Jaal* portrays the realities and the struggles of the fishing community in the Sundarbans. The play also reflects on female trafficking and the empowerment of fishermen breaking the 'jaal' (net) of authority.

*Jaal* is directed by Usha Ganguly, a renowned Indian artiste. "The Sundarbans

cover both India and Bangladesh, and the two countries have a lot in common," she says. "The air, water, social fabric, ignorance and illiteracy are similar in both countries. Women lead tough lives in a society where ignorance is prevalent, and they easily tread into the traps of influential personalities."



PHOTO: STAR

## Regional folk festival concludes in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh

A six-day regional folk-song festival, held at the premises of Circuit House Gymnasium in Mymensingh, will conclude today. The event is organised by Mymensingh district administration in collaboration with Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid Babu inaugurated the festival on December 1 as the chief guest. Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Md Mizanur Rahman chaired the inaugural session.

Mymensingh Divisional Commissioner

Khondoker Mustafizur Rahman, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Mymensingh Range) Nibash Chandra Majhi, Mymensingh Police Superintendent Md Shah Abid Hossain and President of District Awami League Advocate Johirul Haque Khoka and its Secretary Advocate Moazzem Hossain Babul spoke on the occasion, among others.

The festival features songs, dances, dance dramas and different palas based on traditional culture of the country, especially from Mymensingh. The flamboyant cultural shows performed by 62 groups of local groups. A fair,

with 28 handicraft stalls, is also organised at the festival.

The artistes of Bangladesh Shilpaka Academy, Mymensingh, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Charuibeti, Rabindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad, Lokoj Natya Dal, Bahurupi Sangskritik Sangstha, Academy of Fine Arts, Sandipon Sangskritik Sangstha and Sur Tal Loya performed in the festival, among others, mentions District Cultural Officer Arzu Parves, also Member Secretary of the festival. The palas, Mahua, Rupban, Jorina Sundari, Hiterar Geet (the traditional chorus after birth of a child) and Kichhia were also staged at the event.



The somewhat 'horrific' poster is the latest reveal from Puja Chetry's latest film, 'Jinn', a Jaaz Multimedia production. The film, directed by Nader Chowdhury, is claimed by the makers to be based on a true story.