

Remembering USTAD SANJIB DEY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Legendary classical maestro Ustad Sanjib Dey passed away on January 28, 2021, due to a cardiac arrest. He was 68 years old at the time of passing. His last rites were held in his home town of Mymensingh.

The artiste, after suffering from a heart attack at his Nayatola house, had passed away before he was taken to the Anwer Khan Modern Medical College Hospital in the capital.

Sanjib Dey is considered to be one of the most successful music gurus in the country, coming from an illustrious musical bloodline. His grandfather, Ustad Pyare Mohan Dey and his father Ustad Mithun Dey were both classical music gurus of renown. He served as a teacher of classical music at the capital's Chhayanaut from 1974 to 1991, after which he started teaching at home.

"After our father passed away, he [Sanjib] was the one who supported our entire family financially," said Asit Dey, renowned classical guru and Sanjib Dey's brother. "We tend to celebrate successful artistes, but forget the people who enabled their success in the same way. However, his contributions will never be forgotten. He lived his life to the fullest, and we are grateful for that."

"I had thought of him all day today, and wanted to call him," wrote famous musician Bappa Mazumder on Facebook, on the day of his guru's passing. "When I saw Emon Saha's post, I was stumped. I cannot accept this at all!"

Talented artiste Priyanka Gope fondly remembers Sanjib Dey, who was her uncle-in-law. "Ever since I came to the family, he adored me a lot," she says. "Beyond his legacy, he was a wonderful



PHOTO: COLLECTED

and positive person. I never once saw him speak ill of anything or anyone. Even though I did not directly take lessons from him, I learned a lot from conversations with him. The way that he appreciated and encouraged everyone was something that many do not do. I will miss him a lot."

"Our conversations regarding musical culture will always be on my mind. Stay well on the other side, beloved Guru ji", wrote S D Rubel on social media.

In a timespan of five decades, Sanjib tutored many successful music artists in the country, including eminent musicians Shakila Zafar, Bappa Mazumder, Alam Ara Minu, Aankhi Alamgir, Badshah Bulbul, eminent musical personality S D Rubel, among many others.

Sanjib Dey survived by his wife Aditi Dey and children – Nishit Dey and Tripama Dey. Nishit is a renowned sitar player.

SHARMIN JOYA

Social media plays an important role in our lives today, providing us with a forum to share our opinions, experiences and observations. However, it comes with its pros and cons.

Sometimes, sarcastic comments made on social media platforms may hurt people's sentiments. In extreme circumstances, this can lead to blackmailing, personal attacks, hate speeches, and even the spread of fake information.

Cyberbullying, the use of cell phones, instant messaging, e-mail, chat rooms or social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter to harass, threaten or intimidate someone, is a common problem for many today, especially public figures. More often than not, cyber crimes are committed using fake online identities. As the use of mobile and online communications has grown so rapidly, laws to address cyberbullying and cybercrime has increased.

In recent years, a good number of Bangladeshi web projects have bravely dealt with the subject of cyberbullying. Two such web originals are Sanjay Somadder's "Troll" and Kajal Arefin Ome's "Viral Girl". Both of them were released on Cinematic. To some extent, Hoichoi's "Taqdeer", directed by Syed Ahmed Shawki, also highlighted how rumours spread through social media can be disastrous for one's life.

"Troll" starring Apurba, Shatabdi Wadud and Tasnia Farin among others, is about a serial killer, who loses his sanity after his sister attempts suicide, when a photoshopped video of her goes viral online. She chooses to end her life because of the shaming and

bullying she faces.

On the other hand, Tasnia Farin's character is a rising star, who falls into the trap of a blackmailer, and faces mental trauma, as she fears losing her fame overnight. The story of "Troll" sheds light on how female users of social media are harassed online in different ways.

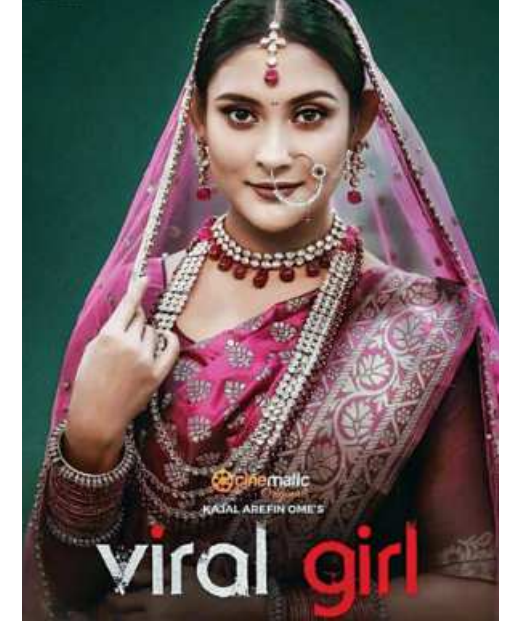
Mehazabien Chowdhury, Manoj Pramanik and Shahed Ali among others star in "Viral Girl", a web show that highlights the consequences a person faces, when their online content goes viral for something unprecedented.

It provides a snapshot of how events are

portrayed on social media, and how people tamper with real information and give false statements, without even knowing the facts.

Shows like "Troll" and "Viral Girl" are being lauded by audiences and critics alike. It is commendable that they are raising awareness about a crucial topic, and encouraging the masses to protest against cyberbullying in their own ways.

At the same time, leading stars like Mehazabien and Apurba should be appreciated for choosing such scripts, as these stories instill hope for positive changes in the digital sphere.



Official posters of the web originals

THE SHOW GOES ON

'Kanjoosh' returns to the stage amid pandemic

Throughout most of last year, the realities of physical restrictions on performances, audience attendance, staff movements and theatre closures posed significant challenges to artistes staging a work in any conventional sense. Concerts, large-scale blockbusters and full theatrical productions were some of the earliest to be shut down by the pandemic worldwide, and may well be among the last to return to form.

SHARABA IQBAL

Nonetheless, braving challenges, towards the end of 2020, theatre artistes in Bangladesh slowly resumed work.

After being closed for several months due to the coronavirus crisis, the Bangladesh Mahila Samity (BMS) reopened in August last year with "Lal Jomin", presented by the Shunyan Repertory Theatre. They had a limited audience, and ensured all social distancing and safety measures.

BMS staged Loko Natyadal's "Kanjoosh", one of Bangladesh's most popular theatrical productions, at their auditorium yesterday. It is based on the famous comedy "The Miser" by French playwright Moliere.

"Kanjoosh" has been staged over 700 times in the country. This production, presented by Loko Natyadal (Banani), is adapted by Tariq Anam Khan and directed by Kamrun Nur Chowdhury, featuring Abdullah Al Harun, Eugene Gomez, Samsad Begum, and Anwar Kaiser among others.



The poster for "Kanjoosh".

"We didn't make any compromises on or changes to the script of the play because of the pandemic," shares director Kamrun Nur Chowdhury. "All members of the cast and crew were tested for Covid-19, before

they began working on the project. They were all in good health. We only focused on the work at hand, and maintained social distancing guidelines as much as possible during rehearsals. We were all excited to

be working again."

The quickening pace of many performance venues reopening in recent weeks has underlined the importance of providing opportunity, backing and space for creators in these critical times.



From a previous production of the play.

COURTESY: LOKO NATYADAL

Bob Marley's 75th birth anniversary today

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Robert Nesta Marley, worldwide known as Bob Marley, was born on February 6, 1945 at St Ann, Jamaica. Today marks the legend's 75th birth anniversary.

Considered as one of the most influential and talented musicians of the world, Bob Marley was one of the first Jamaican and African-descent musicians to achieve unparalleled popularity and fame worldwide.

He was the first to introduce reggae music to the world at large. His songs, comprised with messages of love, faith and unity won the hearts of millions of people across the world. In the time of booming greed and commercialism in the music industry, Bob Marley resorted to send out positive messages of love and strength.

At a time, when many societies were widely racist towards blacks and the concept of equality was far from equal,



PHOTO: REUTERS

Marley spoke out against oppression and injustice through his music. Many people fighting the oppression at the time would turn to his music as an escape, a way to visualise a different way.

A pioneer of reggae, his musical career was an amalgam of fusing elements as reggae, ska, and rock steady, as well as his unique vocal and songwriting style.

He was heavily influenced by popular artists of Jamaica, since childhood. With an emerging Jamaican music scene and a string of collaborations, Marley started his music career at the age of sixteen. He used music as an escape from the harsh realities of his neighborhood. His first recorded single, "Judge Not" was released in 1961.

One of the most important messages Bob Marley sends through his music is the commonalities of the human race and focused on the strength of unity and solidarity across borders. Some of Marley's many songs about prejudice and discrimination are "One Love," "War," "Buffalo Soldier," "Slave Driver," and "Redemption Song" among others.

Bob Marley was honored with a place into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994 and in December of 1999, his album, "Exodus" was named as the 'Album of the century' by Time Magazine. His most popular hit, 'One Love' was named as the designated 'Song of the Millennium' by the BBC.

One of the most charismatic and challenging performers of the 20th century, Marley is regarded as a cultural icon who deeply influenced the people in his community and eventually throughout the globe. Bob Marley was a rebel and his rebel nature had a clearly defined purpose which transcended through generations and his idealism is still relevant in the present world.

The legendary artiste died at the age of 36 from the deadliest skin cancer, Melanoma. Even after 40 years, Marley's legacy is still vibrant.