



An enchanted musical evening showcasing the unison of tagore and western songs at Chhayanaut.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# WHERE TAGORE MEETS THE WEST

## “Poshchimer Robi” held at Chhayanaut

The audience seamlessly found themselves lost in a musical series of Tagorean recitals, songs, and dance performances, accompanied by the western music that they are inspired from.

**AKHLAKUR RAHMAN**

Rabindra Sangeet met western music once again this year on the fourth presentation of “Poshchimer Robi”, organised by Anandandhara Arts and Nritya Nandan. The event took place at Chhayanaut on Friday.

Rabindranath Tagore is the pride resides in every Bengali individual– and the unison of his creations reinterpreted in western style was the highlight of the night.

The music direction and programme conceptualisation for the event was done by Imtiaz Ahmed, while dance directions and choreography were handled by the eminent danseuse and choreographer Sharmila Banerjee alongside upcoming choreographer and dancer Sudeshna Swayamprabha.

The event was inaugurated by the acclaimed cultural persona Safiuddin Ahmed with a small speech on Rabindranath’s childhood

escapades abroad, and his encounter with western music.

“Rabindranath went abroad to attain a higher education degree, but he failed,” said Safiuddin Ahmed. “Instead, what he attained was the taste of western music at the tender age of 17. You will find much western influence in the Rabindra Sangeet today. Yet, there’s also bits of Rabindra in there.”

Following the speech, the audience were mesmerised by the Tagorean recitals performed by celebrated Eksushey Padak recipient Bhaswar Banerjee, and renowned elocutionist Rashed Hasan.

After the wondrous recitations, “Katobar Bhebechhinu Apona Bhuliya” swayed the audience.

The song was inspired by “Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes”, composed by acclaimed playwright Ben Jonson.

It was performed by Urbi Modhura, Purba Adhora and Imtiaz Ahmed, alongside a dance performance by Nritya Nandan.

The audience seamlessly found themselves lost in a musical series of Tagorean recitals, songs, and dance performances accompanied by the western music that they are inspired from.

The event featured the songs “Phule Phule Dhole Dhole”, inspired by Scottish poet Robert Burns’ “Ye Banks and Braes”, “Oh Dekhbi Re Bhai”, inspired by Irish song “The Vicar Of Bray” by Sydney Grundy and Edward Solomon, and “Purano Sei Diner Kotha” inspired by Robert Burns’ “Auld Lang Syne”, as well as other melodious classics.

The event came to a close with a soulful performance of “Amar Shonar Bangla” sung by all the artistes together, as everyone stood up and joined in on our unforgettable national anthem.



# ‘Laal Singh Chaddha’ under fire

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

Aamir Khan and his recently released film, “Laal Singh Chaddha” are currently in hot waters. The actor, film, and other parties involved have had a complaint filed against them for allegedly ‘disrespecting the Indian Army and hurting Hindu sentiments’. This is because Aamir’s character Laal, works as an Indian Army personnel in the film.

The complaint was submitted by a Delhi-based lawyer to Delhi Police commissioner Sanjay Arora on Friday. In the complaint, it is alleged that “Laal Singh Chaddha’s” portrayal of the Indian Army has disrespected the armed forces.

# Actress Anne Heche dies a week after car crash

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

“Donnie Brasco”, “Catfight” and “Psycho” star Anne Heche passed away a week after she was critically injured in a car crash on August 5.

The news was confirmed by a representative of her family to TMZ. “We have lost a bright light, a kind and most joyful soul, a loving mother, and a loyal friend” they said.

On Friday afternoon, Heche was confirmed “brain dead”, which under California law is the definition of death. It was announced earlier that she would be taken off of life support.



# COUNTRYWIDE



People cross the Panaullah Canal in Natore’s Singra upazila as the bridge, which collapsed seven years ago, still lies without repair.

PHOTO: STAR

# Bridge lies without repair for 7 years

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore**

Residents of 12 villages under four upazilas of Natore and Naogaon are suffering immensely as the bridge over Panaullah Canal in Natore’s Singra upazila remained unrepaired since it collapsed about seven years ago.

As a result, thousands of inhabitants of different villages in Natore’s Singra, Naldanga and Sadar upazilas and Naogaon’s Atrai upazila are compelled to use a bamboo platform, attached with this broken bridge in Bakhtarpur area, risking their lives.

Locals said the bridge started to tilt about five years ago, and later a large portion of it collapsed on the canal during the floods in 2018.

A JSC examinee died while crossing the broken bridge in 2018, and the number of injury-hit people is increasing day by day, they said,

adding that though accidents are occurred quite regularly, the authorities concerned remains indifferent to the safety of the villages.

However, commuters are using the bridge, risking their lives, as there is no other alternative.

Shahidul Islam of Gopendranagar village in Singra upazila said the bridge over Panaullah Canal under Lalor union is an important way of communication for people of at least 12 villages.

Instead of building new bridge, local administration built a temporary bamboo bridge beside the collapsed bridge, but that too collapsed in 2018, he added.

Sanjay Halder of Bakhtarpur village said after the temporary bridge collapsed about four years ago, local people put a bamboo platform there to make it usable temporarily.

Around 50 pedestrians and rickshaw passengers sustained injuries when their vehicles overturned on the bridge, he added.

Singra Upazila Parishad Chairman Shafiqul Islam said farmers in Chalanbil area are facing huge difficulties when they use the bridge to transport their agricultural goods to nearby markets or other places.

Natore Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Executive Engineer Shahidul Islam said they sent a Tk 2.5 crore project proposal to their higher authorities in this regard, but later came to know that local public representatives have urged the disaster management and relief ministry to build a new bridge.

Singra Upazila Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Mohammad Al-Amin said a they have floated a tender of Tk 90 lakh for construction of a new bridge.

# Junta restricts

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country’s 92 registered political parties would have to ask for permission if they wished to meet foreign organisations or individuals.

“Political parties need to respect the law. If they fail to do so their party’s registration will be dissolved,” the commission said in a statement.

The body also accused foreign embassies and international non-governmental organisations of interfering in the 2020 polls resulting in fraud.

# Rushdie

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emergency surgery and was placed on a ventilator after Friday’s assault in which a 24-year-old man, Hadi Matar, rushed the stage where Rushdie was about to deliver a lecture and stabbed him in the neck and abdomen.

According to his agent Andrew Wylie, the nerves in one of Rushdie’s arms were severed and his liver damaged in the attack, and he “will likely lose one eye.”

State police said Matar, from Fairfax, New Jersey, had been formally charged with attempted murder, but otherwise provided no information on his background or what might have motivated him.

His family apparently came from a border village called Yaroun in southern Lebanon. An AFP reporter who visited the village yesterday was told that that Matar’s parents were divorced and his father — a shepherd — still lived there. Journalists who approached his father’s home were turned away.

Matar was “born and raised in the US,” the head of the local municipality, Ali Qassem Tahfa, told AFP.

Rushdie, 75, had been living under an effective death sentence since 1989 when Iran’s then supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a religious decree, or fatwa, ordering Muslims to kill the writer.

Contact lenses

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blood, saliva, urine, and tears.

On the surface are a wealth of proteins - some fuelled by cancer, viral infections or injury.

Exosomes can influence tumour regulation, progression and spread - offering hope of more targeted and effective treatment.

# Move afoot to put undue

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condemn these abuses and seek reform, the ruling Awami League could use her silence to legitimise its abuses and undermine activists,” said the joint statement, issued on the Human Rights Watch website.

During her August 14-17 visit, upon the invitation by the Bangladesh government, she is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, ministers of foreign affairs, law and home, and the National Human Rights Commission, civil society groups, UN officials and diplomats in Dhaka.

On August 15, she will pay homage to Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, and then deliver a speech at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

She will also be visiting the Rohingya camps in Cox’s Bazar.

Bachelet’s visit is being considered significant ahead of the five-year anniversary of Rohingya influx, and after the US sanctions on Rab.

There has also been reports of inadequate engagement between Bangladesh and the UN rights mechanism over the years.

A dedicated office under the UN wing of the foreign ministry was created earlier this year to oversee human rights issues.

The foreign ministry in yesterday’s statement said Bangladesh looks forward to a constructive dialogue with the high commissioner for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Bangladesh hopes to benefit from her objective appreciation regarding

the country’s achievements despite challenges, it said.

This visit is considered important in order to highlight Bangladesh’s national perspective and the “government’s sincere efforts” to protect and promote human rights through updating the domestic legal framework, creating awareness and sensitising the implementing agencies.

It is important that the country’s economic development amid the pandemic and other evolving crises, its maintenance of peace and security of the people, and constraints like the Rohingya crisis and the adverse effects of climate change, are taken into due consideration when assessing the human rights situation, the statement said.

The ministry further claimed that despite the ongoing pandemic, no one in the country has died of starvation.

“Bangladesh, a country of 165 million, was able to provide almost a million homes to the homeless, and over 10 million families are receiving basic food and essential supplies under its social security protection programme.”

It further said Bangladesh is promoting basic human rights like rights to food, accommodation, development and more.

Through interactions with the Rohingyas, Bachelet would also be equipped with concrete information to press hard the agenda for their repatriation to the Rakhine State of Myanmar.

# Gang tries to rob

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robbed the truck.

One group blocked it with the bus, another tied the truck driver and his helper and boarded them on the bus. The third group drove the truck away, he said.

The law enforcers seized the bus from the Dhaka-Chattoagram highway, rescued the truck driver and helper, and recovered three machetes and two Chinese axes.

Some of the robbers, however, managed to flee, he added.

After primary interrogation, Rab

said the gang had been committing such crimes on various highways for the last several years.

All the members have daytime jobs but they rob people and vehicles at nights, it added.

Asked about the bus, the Rab official said the gang rented the bus from its owner around one and a half years ago but he never knew that his vehicle was being used for criminal activity.

All the documents of the bus are valid, he added.