

# Bangladesh Centre / Centre de Bangladesh



## Ramendu MAJUMDAR

born in 1941. Obtained an M.A. in English literature from the University of Dhaka. He first took up teaching in a college and then switched over to advertising as profession. He has worked in advertising and communication in Karachi, New Delhi and Dhaka for over 35 years and presently heads a leading advertising and communication agency, Expressions Ltd. in Dhaka.

Theatre happens to be his lifelong passion and his major preoccupation. After emergence of Bangladesh in 1971, he founded the Theatre drama group. He is one of the founders of Theatre School, established in 1990 and has been working as the Secretary of its Managing Committee. He edits and publishes quarterly Theatre (since 1972) which happened to be the first theatre magazine of Bangladesh. He was the founder Chairman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, an apex body of all the theatre groups of Bangladesh. He was the founder General Secretary of the Bangladesh Centre of the ITI and is its current President. He is a Vice-President of ITI (Worldwide) and also was the President of ITI Communication Committee. He edits and publishes the ITI's book on international theatre "The World of Theatre".

Ramendu Majumdar was the Chairman of the Combined Cultural Alliance, the national apex body of all cultural organizations in Bangladesh and a Member of the Executive Council of Bangla Academy. He was a Member of the Dhaka University Senate for 3 terms. He is now a Member of the Executive Council of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, the national academy of fine performing arts.

He regularly performs on stage, TV and radio. He was a Newsreader in Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh for 3 decades. He writes articles, mostly on drama and culture regularly. He has 15 publications (both original and edited) to his credit. He was a Regional Editor of the World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre (Asia/Oceania volume) published by Routledge.

A leading figure of Bangladesh theatre, Ramendu Majumdar has received a number of awards for his contribution to the theatre as an organiser, producer, editor and actor. He was the main organiser of many national and international events including theatre festivals and seminars in Bangladesh.

Ramendu Majumdar is married to leading stage personality Ferdausi Majumdar.

### CENTER'S ACTIVITIES 2006-2008

During the last two years our priority areas were publications, training and biennial events. We tried to disseminate the news of ITI activities to all our national and international organizations having offices in Bangladesh. We sent complimentary copies of "The World of Theatre" (English and French Versions) to all the foreign Embassies here and established good contacts with the National UNESCO Commission, Ministry of Culture and some embassies. Bangladesh ITI has a close alliance with Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, a federating body of all theatre groups of Bangladesh. At times Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy also becomes a partner in ITI activities.

### Events 2007 - 2008

- World Theatre Day 2007: World Theatre Day was observed with usual fanfare in association with Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation. World Theatre Day lecture was delivered by Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam while the World Theatre Day honour was awarded posthumously to Music Guru Wahidul Haq and painter Nitun Kundu.
- International Dance Day 2007: The day was observed befittingly by various dance organisations.
- Regional Workshop: A 9-day regional workshop for Young Theatre Practitioners was organised in 2007 in association with ITI Theatre Education Committee. 16 participants from Bangladesh, India and Nepal attended the workshop conducted by Christine Schmalor. The event was supported by UNESCO.
- Participation in Prague Quadrennial: Prof. Shafi Ahmed from Bangladesh ITI participated in the Scenofest 2007 and presented a paper besides attending a meeting of Theatre Education Committee.
- Whither Theatre? Bangladesh ITI organized an international seminar, theatre festival, workshops and ITI committee meetings in Dhaka from February 17 to 23, 2008.
- The worldwide Executive Council of ITI met in Dhaka for its 125th session on 18 & 19 February, 2008.
- World Theatre Day 2008: World Theatre Day was observed with great enthusiasm jointly with Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation.
- International Dance Day 2008: A three day celebration was arranged on this occasion.
- Published the 2008 Volume of "The World of Theatre".