

theatre

A Tribute to a Theatre Guru

A week long festival of the theatrical works of Abdullah Al Mamun begins

By Abdus Saboor

OUR independence, our sovereignty, is the result of a bloody war that brought us our freedom. After this achievement, the uncontrolled competition to reap the crop of independence began very naturally throughout the country. The comparatively young generation was the victim of its inevitable negative effects. Human values were quickly affected in a bad way. At this

threatening situation, the citizens, especially the elders were baffled. A kind of fear pervaded their minds that the traditional culture and social systems are going to be destroyed.

Evidently, the theme and the message of 'Subachan Nirbansha', a play written and directed by Abdullah Al Mamun rotates centering the above-mentioned situation and fear. The play, in its first redirected production after 1974, has not implemented any experiment while staging and the technique

of presentation is very simple.

The play opens with a courtroom scene, with a faint light focused on the judge. She introduces the audience with the members of this judiciary process and tells that this court is the court of our real life.

The accused in this case is a father whereas the three lawyers are his two sons and one daughter and for the time being there is no witness in this process.

The first case starts with the elder son, Khokon, accusing his

father of teaching him the wrong moral. His father always told him 'Honesty is the best policy'. Throughout his life Khokon has abided by this saying and never told a lie. The tragedy took place when his father sent him to one of his wealthy friends for securing a job but Khokon was turned down immediately by the boss. The shock came to him more acutely when Khokon's friend, who passed his exams in a mere third division, gets the job.

His father tells him to go and protest against this discrimination and angry Khokon goes back to do so. He assaults the boss and consequently goes to jail. The first case ends here with the father proved guilty.

The second case starts with the younger son, Tapan, accusing his father of teaching him another obsolete moral that a studious life leads to a wealthy life, which also does not prove true in his case. Moreover, watching his brother going to the jail, Tapan does not see any bright prospect for his own future. Frustration gets to him and as a result he chooses the path of terrorism and begins to earn a lot of money. Finally, he robs the boss who refused his brother a job but he too, consequently, gets imprisonment. Thus the father is proved guilty again.

The third case begins after a short recess of 10 minutes. His only daughter Ranu now accuses the exhausted father. He taught his daughter that conjugal life is made a success by the qualities of a bride. Ranu gets married to the clerk of the boss. The clerk, an absolute victim of the social system, finds his job in jeopardy unless he sends Ranu to the boss for entertainment. But things become unbearable for Ranu and she comes back to his father's house. She accuses her father of giving her the wrong precepts for her married life.

The judiciary process is over awaiting the verdict of the judge but the judge leaves the judgement to the audience and slowly the curtain falls.

Ferdousi Mojumder played the judge and Rahimuddin Mojumder played the father. The role of Ranu was brilliantly acted by Tropa Mojumder. Abdullah Al Mamun performed brilliantly as the boss and was able to arouse a sheer hatred for

his character.

The play was the first of the series of seven plays written by Abdullah Al Mamun. The Theatre Group has arranged a seven-day drama festival of this talented dramatist, director and actor, titled Pheere Dekha (Retrospective).

The festival, looks back at the theatrical oeuvre of Abdullah Al Mamun, opened December 27, 1999, and will show plays everyday till December 31 at Mahila Samity. The festival will feature seven plays written by this celebrated dramatist. Abdullah Al Mamun, did his graduation and post graduation in History from Dhaka University. For years, he worked as a producer in Bangladesh television. He won the Bachshas award for best story and best screen playwright in 1975 along with National Television Award as the best drama-producer. Bangla Academy Award winner Mamun proved his brilliance once again when he won the National Film Award as the best producer for 'Ekhoney Somoy' in 1980 and for 'Dui Jiban' in 1988.

Theatre group conferred Munir Chowdhury Memorial Award upon him in 1991 and from the same year, he has been acting as the director general of National Mass Media Institute. His autobiography 'Amar Ami' came out this year. He also won the Nandikar Award. In his colourful life Mamun has been to many countries of the world and his works brilliantly reflect his various experiences.

The eminent educationist professor Anisurrazaman inau-

gurated the programme, which began at 6 PM. National Professor Kabir Chowdhury presided over the programme. Ramendu Mojumder gave the welcome speech.

November 27 is the birthday of the Natya Guru Munir Chowdhury. On the occasion Theatre group has been organizing a weeklong festival for the past few years. Theatre feels proud to pay tribute to this genius.

Theatre group has played an important role in the arena of stage drama in Bangladesh. The group was founded in 1972. The first production came out on 21st February 1972 while it's first regular performance started from 19th April 1974. It presented its dramas in places like Seoul, New York, New Jersey, Delhi and Calcutta. Of its 32 productions, twenty-one dramas are original, five of them are translated and four of them are adaptation. Theatre group also performed two street dramas - 'Bibisab' and 'Kursi'. Ferdousi Mojumder, the veteran artist of the group, presented the first ever solo-performance in Bangladesh, 'Kokilara', written by Abdullah Al Mamun. Quarterly 'Theatre' is a publication which first came out in 1972. The magazine is now on its 21st year. Almost one hundred dramas and a large number of criticisms have been published in this magazine.

In 1990, Theatre group set up a school called 'Theatre' and the school offers one year long acting course. The school is carrying on the classes of its 10th



Ferdousi Mojumder in Kokilara

batch with great flare. The school has been conducting three-month long course in Comilla, Mymensing, Sylhet, Barisal, Laxmipur and Chittagong. Theatre group has introduced Munir Chowdhury Memorial Award and Mohammad Zakaria Award in 1983 and 1997 respectively.

This year's Munir Chowdhury Memorial Award and Mohammad Zakaria Memorial prize were given to Syed Shamsul Hoque and Shimul Yusuf respectively.

In expressing his feelings, Syed Huque recalled his days of English Department at the Dhaka University where 'Munir Bhai' was his teacher and Syed Huque used to imitate him in every way possible. "It was Munir Bhai who was the first to encourage me to write plays," said Syed Huque in an emo-

tional voice. Shimul Yusuf received her award from Tahmina Zakaria, wife of late Mohammad Zakaria who expressed her deep gratitude to everyone and especially to the audience, whom she thinks, makes an actor or an actress what he or she is.

The second session featured the play. The other plays to be staged are 'Akhon Dushomoy', 'Akhon Kritodas', 'Kokilara', 'Spardha' and 'Meraj Fakir Ma'. The festival is dedicated to the memory of poet Begum Sultana Kamal.

Abdullah Al Mamun in his speech, expressed his firm resolution to keep on writing in the future and so we hope that this festival is just a comma on a long glorious line and the gap between this comma and the full stop should stretch as wide as possible.



Mohammad Zakaria and Ferdousi Mojumder in the original production of Subachan Nirbansha in 1974

to preview

Ek Tukro Megh on BTV Tonight

THE package weekly Ek Tukro Megh will be aired on BTV tonight after the news in Bangla. Written by Sayed Manjural Islam and directed by Hasan the drama stars - Ali Zaker, Towkir Ahmed, Bipasha Hayat, Zhora, Ibne Hasan and many others.

Synopsis: Mr. Afzal was living quite happily with his family. He and his wife both loved each other more than anything in this world. His wife had a hobby of cooking delicious foods for her husband. Their son Masum was liked by his sister Tina's friend Lisa. Masum tells Lisa that he only things her as his sister's friend and nothing else. Lisa cried out

loud telling him about his ride on the motor bike with another girl in his back. On the other hand road constructors find a skeleton in front of their house. The curiosity among the local's gathered them in front of Mr. Afzal's house. Seeing the crowd he comes out to inquire and sees the skeleton. In the mean time a reporter arrives at the scene. He asks Mr. Afzal about the skeleton. But he denies knowing anything about it. While the police comes to the scene they report about a missing woman. Police talks to everyone in the house but does not get any information about the skeleton. But Lisa tells them that, around four months ago a 23/24 year



Zahid Hasan (L) and Towkir Ahmed (R) in a scene from Choto Choto Dhew.

old lady came along with Masum. They had a fight and at one point Masum threatened her to kill her.

Choto Choto Dhew on Channel 1

The fifth episode of the drama serial Choto Choto Dhew will be aired on Channel 1 on November 30. Playwright and directed by Arun Chowdhury the drama stars - Shami Kaysar, Zahid Hasan, Bipasha Hayat, Towkir Ahmed, Nasima Khan, Tania, Sweetie, Monir Khan, Shimul, Nobel, Trapa Majumdar and many others.

Synopsis: Inspector Towkir Ahmed receives a phone call from an unknown man. He took

a special assignment on investigating his own brother's murder case. He immediately reaches to the crime scene at the house his brother was murdered. He found the maid servant Muna there, she worked at the house. He asked her that why was she still here. In reply she tells him that she loves the caretaker of the house. Leaving her he goes upstairs and finds two young men trying to visualize something with a binocular through the window. He scares them and asks them what they were doing there. Seeing the inspector they get scared and panicked.

Compiled By: Nafid Imran Ahmed



Towkir Ahmed appears in Ek Tukro Megh

TV Guide

Monday 29th November

(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

BTV

3:00 Opening, 3:30 Open University, 4:00 Khabar, 4:05 Cartoon Bionix Six, 4:30 Sashtiyathya, 4:45 Sports programme, 5:20 Nabojuge Amra, 5:45 Selected programme, 6:00 Khabar, 6:15 Pushti Tathya, 6:30 Programme from Chittagong centre, 7:00 Weather news, 7:05 Champa, 7:25 Antartatik Angane, 8:00 News in Bengali, 8:40 Drama, 10:00 News in English, 10:30 Pathway, 11:30 Khabar, 11:45 Closing.

TEN

Evening

6:00 Cartoon Crow, 6:30 YA tv, 7:00 Songs' demand, 7:30 Dujone Dujonar, 8:00 Dhaka Cinema, 8:30 Modhumilan, 9:00 Aposh.

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC World News 6:30 Reporters 7:00 BBC News / Asia Today Inc. World Business Report / 24 Hours 7:45 Reporters 8:00 BBC News / Asia Today Inc. World Business Re-

port 8:45 Reporters 9:00 BBC News Inc. World Business Report / 24 Hours 9:30 Asia Today 9:45 Reporters 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: Correspondent-11:00 BBC World News

11:30 World Living: Madhur Jaffrey's Flavours of India #3/6 Punjab 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 India Business Reports 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 HARDtalk 2:00 World News 2:30 World Focus: Correspondent-3:00 World News 3:30 HARDtalk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 Top Gear 5:00 BBC World News 5:30 World Focus: Correspondent-7:00 World Business Report 7:30 BBC The World Today 8:30 World Living: Madhur Jaffrey's Flavours of India #3/6 Punjab 9:00 World News

9:30 HARDtalk 10:00 World News 10:30 World Living: Mastermind India (Quiz Presenter: Siddhartha Basu) 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Living: Earth Report-Every Drop Counts 12:00 The World Today 1:30 Hard Talk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 World Focus: Art Express 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Holiday 4:00 World News 4:30 Europe Direct 5:00 BBC World News Inc. World Business Report / 24 Hours

CHANNEL [V]

7:30 Tea With [V] (Back To Back Vids) 8:00 Virtual [V] (Back To Back Vids) 8:30 Tea With [V] (Back To Back Vids) 9:00 [V] Style Police 9:30 Tea With [V] (Back To Back Vids) 10:00 [V] Line Lagao 10:30 [V] Hit Machine 1:00 [V] First Day First Show 1:30 [V] Sabha 3:00 [V] Hit Machine (Back To Back Vids) 3:30 [V] This Week 4:00 [V] Hit Machine 4:30 Tea With [V] 5:00 Virtual [V] (Back To Back Vids) 5:30 Tea With [V] (Back To Back Vids) 6:00 [V] Lunch Pad 6:30 Tea With [V] (Back To Back Vids) 7:00 [V] Line Lagao 7:30 [V] Hit Machine 8:30 Channel [V] Oye 9:00 [V] This Week 9:30 First Day First Show 10:00 [V] Hit Machine 10:30 Late Night [V] VJ Laila (N) 11:00 [V] Cool Mail 11:30 Late Night [V] 12:30 [V] Hit Machine 1:30 Late Night [V] 2:00 [V] Dares You 2:30 Late Night [V] 3:30 [V] Hit Machine

STAR PLUS

6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:15 The Tria: Show 9:30 TVC Sky Shopping 10:00 Good Morning India 12:00 Star Talk 12:30 TVC Shopping 1:00 Film Based: Hit Ya Fit 1:30 Daily Soap-Sansar 2:00 Kshiti Yeh Nahi 2:30 Daily Sope-

Swabhimani 3:00 Star Bestsellers: Fat Chance 4:00 Kuchha Pappad Pukka Pappad 4:30 Power Rangers 5:00 WWF Wrestling- The Shotgun Challenge- 6:00 Small Wonder 6:30 Daily Soap-Maal Hai To Taal Hai 7:00 Film Based: Hit Ya Fit 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Srirami Sharma Na Kehti Thi 8:30 Hindi Serial: Tu Tu Main Main 9:00 Hindi Serial: Saans 9:30 Star News 10:00 Main 10:30 Sajid No. One 11:00 Aaj Ki Baat 11:30 The Great Escape 12:00 Star News (Eng.) 12:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 1:00 Brittas Empire 1:30 The Beautiful 2:30 Series: Dangerfield 3:30 Series: Tropical Heat 4:30 Media TV 5:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 5:30 The Oprah Win-free Show

STAR WORLD

6:00 Aerbics Oz Style 6:30 Hollywood Squares 7:00 Brittas Empire 7:30 Animal Adventure 8:00 Sorry! 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 Series: Heartbeat 10:00 Series: Murder Call 11:00 The Oprah Winfree Show 12:00 Dr Quinn Medicine Women 1:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 1:30 Fashion TV 2:00 Series: Second Noah 3:00 Animal Adventure 3:30 Happy Days 4:00 Hollywood Squares 4:30 World News 5:00 Asia News Up-

date 5:05 World Business Report 5:30 Home Improvement 6:00 Series: That 70's Show 6:30 Series: Every Body Loves Raymond 6:55 Asia News Update 7:00 Series: Dharma And Greg 7:30 Series: Frasier 8:00 Series: Chicago Hope 9:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 9:30 Series: Home Improvement 10:00 Series: That 70's Show 10:30 Series: Frasier 11:00 Series: Chicago Hope 1:00 Series: Home Improvement 1:30 Series: That 70's Show 2:00 Series: Dharma And Greg 2:30 Series: Frasier 3:00 Series: Chicago Hope 3:30 Series: The Bold And The Beautiful 4:00 Life In The World With Joyce Meyer 4:30 Sky World News 5:00 Sorry! 5:30 The Things People Do

STAR MOVIES

7:45 Comedy: Weekend At Bernie's (*Andrew McCarthy, Jonathan Silverman, Catherine Mary Stewart, Terry Kiser) (15) 9:30 Thriller: The Dark Wind (*Lou Diamond Phikips, Gary Farmer, Fred Ward) 11:30 Action: Jewel of the Nile (*Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner, Danny DeVito) 1:30 Drama: Great Expectations (*Gwyneth Paltrow, Ethan Hawke,

Robert De Niro, Hank Azaria, Anne Bancroft) 3:30 El CP: Brendan Fraser 4:45 Drama: Bogus (*Gerard Depardieu, Whoopi Goldberg, Haly Joel Osmont) 7:00 Comedy: New York Stories (*Nick Nolte, Mia Farrow, Woody Allen, Rosanna Arquette, Talia Shire) 9:30 This Week That Year 10:00 Monday Comedy: The Y2 (*Colm Meaney, Donald O'Kelly, Ger Ryan) 12:00 Drama: Bogus (*Gerard Depardieu, Whoopi Goldberg, Haly Joel Osmont) 2:15 Comedy: Peter's Friends (*Emma Thompson, Kenneth Branagh, Hugh Laurie, Stephen Fry)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Science Frontiers 2:30 Discovery Showcase 3:30 Discovery Profiles Series 4:30 Ultrascience 5:30 Beyond 2000 6:00 Splat! 6:30 Equinox 7:30 Travelers 8:30 Ushuaia 9:30 Eyewitness 10:00 Eyewitness 10:30 Wild Guide 11:00 Walker's Cay Chronicles 11:30 Animal Survivors 12:00 Animals in Danger 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Ultrascience 2:30 Medical Detective 3:30 Discovery Magazine Series 4:30 Travelers 5:30 Ushuaia 6:30 Naturequest

7:00 Buck Staghorn's Animal Bites 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Crocodile Hunter 9:30 New Detectives 10:30 Storm Warning 11:30 Discovery Profiles Series

CARTOON NETWORK

5:30 World Famous Toons 6:30 The Real Adventures of Johnny 7:00 Tom & Jerry Kids 8:30 Perils of Pussycat 9:00 Josie & Pussycat 9:30 Drink the Little 10:00 Flintstone Kids 10:30 Riche Rich 11:00 Top Cat 11:30 Captain Planet 12:00 Scooby Doo 12:30 The Cartoon Grand 1:30 Fantastic Max 2:00 Crocodile 2:30 The New Scooby Doo Movies 3:30 Sky Commanders 4:00 Centurions 4:30 Swats Kats 5:00 Ninja Robots 5:30 Flintstones 6:00 Top & Jerry Kids 6:30 Crocodile 7:00 The Mask 7:30 Dexters Laboratory 8:00 What's a Cartoon? Show 8:30 The Addams Family 9:00 Scooby Doo Where Are You 9:00 The Popeye Show

SONY TV

7:30 Aatma 8:00 Rishiprasad 8:30 Chartist-busters (Trailer Show) 9:00 Ek Mahal Ho Sepno Ka (Daily Sope) 9:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show)

10:00 The Poppadum Show 10:30 Bajaj Ki Lehren 11:00 Star Yaar Kalakar (Presenter: Farida Jalal) Guest: Simon Singh & Ravi Behl, 12:00 Rang Berangee 12:30 Chartbusters (Trailer Show) 1:00 Indian Holiday 1:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 2:00 Boogi Woogi 2:30 Daily Sope: Ek Mahal Ho Sapno Ka 3:00 Daily Sope: Aurat 3:30 Cine Matini: Film: Swarg Se Sunder (Jeetendra, Mithun, Jaya Prada, Padmini Kolapuri) 7:00 Junoon 7:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 8:00 Chartbusters (Trailer Show) 8:30 Tenali Rama 9:00 Love You (Anup Soni, Shruti Ulfar) 9:30 Saaya (Achintay Kaur, Manisha Joshi, R Madhavan) 10:05 Missing (Presenter: Jackie Shroff) 10:40 Movers & Shakers 11:15 Ek Mahal Ho Sapno Ka (Daily Sope) 11:45 Junoon 12:15 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 12:30 Heena 1:00 Family Roy 1:30 Alpvram 2:00 Open House 3:00 Daily Sope: Aurat 3:30 Cine Nite Show-Hindi Feature Film: Gunda

ZEE TV

6:00 Yadoon Ki Pal (B/W Songs) 6:30 Zee News & Zee Business 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:00 Guldasta 8:30 Zara

Haske- Hai Zindegi 9:00 Zara Haske- Filmi Chakkar 9:30 Disney Hour (Cartoon) 10:30 Ek Nazar & Guldasta 11:00 Public Demand 11:30 Amanat 12:00 Tejaswini 12:30 Choti Choti Baatein 1:00 Kala Sona 1:30 Naye Nazrane (Film Trailer) 2:00 Daily Sitcom- Hum Paanch (Rerun) (Serial: Amita, Rakhi Vijan) 2:30 Sope- Sanskar 3:00 Daily Sope- Raahat (Serial) 3:30 Cinema Hits Hindi Film: Zakhamee (Sunil Dutt, Asha Parekh) 6:30 Ek Nazar (Hindi Film Trailer) 7:00 Disney Hour Cartoons 8:00 Chota Muh Aur Badi Baat (Sitcom) 8:30 Hello Friends 9:00 Ashiqui (Anita Raj, Farida Jalal) 9:30 Haad Kar Di (Sitcom) 10:00 Janam (Divya Shetty, Kartika Rani Sheeba, Sameer, Rohini Hattangady) 10:30 Nagian 11:00 Daily Sope: Angan Ep-21 11:30 Raahat 12:00 Nirma-Hum Paanch 12:30 Indian Cricket 8 Millennium 1:00 Nagin (Seema Kapoor, Ronit Roy) 1:30 Tejaswini (Renuka Sahani) / Naya Zamana 2:00 Zee Cine 2:30 Zee Arabia: Anhonee (Horror Show) 3:00 Feature Film: Watan Se Door

MTV INDIA

7:00 Non-Stop Hits 8:00 MTV Hanging Out VJ Raju/Sonia 9:00 Classic MTV VJ Sarah/Rahul 10:00 Non-Stop Hits

10:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya 11:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Shehnaz/Amrita/Nikhil 12:30 MTV Hit Music 1:00 MTV Housefull V Nalisha 1:30 MTV & Renwood India Hit Lists VJ Rahul 2:30 MTV Select VJ Nikhil 3:30 Love Line VJ Malaika 4:00 Essential 4:30 Pepsi Dance Connection Special- TV MTV 5:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya/Rahul 6:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Shehnaz/Amrita/Nikhil 7:30 MTV Ek Do Teen VJ Raagshwari 8:30 Non-Stop Hits 9:00 MTV Hit Film Music 10:00 House Full VJ Nalisha 10:30 Non-Stop Hits 11:30 The Grind (Beach Show) 12:30 Chill Out Non-Stop Hits Continue

ZEE CINEMA

8:15 Film Show- Fateh (*Sanjay Dutt, Mohsin Khan) 11:15 Movie Fare 11:30 Film Show- Teen Bati Char Raasta (*Karan Diwan) 2:30 Madhyantar 2:45 Alma Lio- Its My Choice 3:15 Film Show- Geet Gaya Patharon Ne (*Jeetendra, Rajshri) 6:15 Top Notch 6:30 Film Time 6:35 Top of The Tots 7:00 Film Show- Biwi Ho To Aisi (*Farooque Shaikh, Rekha) 10:30 Film Show- Love (*Salman Khan, Revti) 1:45 Making of A Legend 2:15 Film Show- Kudrat Ka Kanoon