

Abdullah Al-Mamun : Versatility in theatre

The name of Abdullah Al-Mamun is associated with quality theatre. Starting out in this media from a very early age, he has won laurels as a prolific playwright, director and a versatile actor in the theatre and TV plays.

ERSHAD KAMOL

GOING back to his early days, Mamun recalls, 'In the early 1950s I wrote my first play *Niotir Parihash* when I was a student of class nine. In the intermediate level I used to perform in the plays arranged by the students of Dhaka College. And in the university, I along with my friends and some teachers including Shaheed Muneir Chowdhury established the Teachers Students Centre to stage plays as there were no formal theatrical groups.

After the Liberation War we established the drama group, Theatre, in 1972. We started our activities by publishing a magazine titled *Theatre*. In 1974 we started staging plays on a regular basis. *Shubochan Nirbashone* is my first stage-play for any theatrical group, which we staged in 1974.

'So far I have written 22 stage plays which are basically social plays and the characters of the plays belong to the middle-class. Of these, Theatre has produced 16 plays. Moreover, I have directed most of the Theatre productions. And I have performed in all the Theatre productions except *Kokilara*, which is a one-character play performed by Ferdousi Majumdar. But I had directed and dramatised *Kokilara*, the first such production in Bangladesh.'

Mamun had been involved with the then Pakistan Television (PTV) from the very inception in 1965, which was later transformed to Bangladesh television (BTV). Mamun says, 'After completing my studies I joined the newspaper *Sangbad* as a reporter. And then I shifted to the then PTV in 1965 on a contract basis for two years. Later, I joined as a producer in 1967. Retiring from BTV in the post of Deputy Director General, I became the Director General of the National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMCO). I retired as the Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.'

Abdullah Al-Mamun has been a prolific playwright and a versatile actor in the theatre and TV plays. However, Mamun is not pleased with the present scenario of the elec-



Abdullah Al-Mamun with Ferdousi Majumdar features one of our most popular TV duos. Seen here in a sequence from the drama serial Jowar Bhata

tronic media. Mamun says, 'Dynamism is a must for quality production of the electronic media. BTV has become a static institution as no new talents have emerged from it. Moreover, due to government control since the mid 80s the situation has deteriorated further.'

'Private channels are engaging young and dynamic talents. However, the approach of the sponsors is not quite adequate for the betterment of the programmes. The artists, directors, playwrights and technical crews have very little freedom. I too have become a part of the system. And I agree that I am not maintaining the same standard as a director what I did in my earlier works like popular drama serial *Shongshoptak*.

'If the system is not changed, the standard will deteriorate. But, I believe that we have talented artists and technical hands. And I think our potential is at par with that of India, which ba-

sically produces hi-tech productions. The government should take initiatives so that our channels can be launched in India as in other places.'

Abdullah Al-Mamun is also a popular film director. Mamun says, 'I made the first movie *Angikar* in 1972. I earned immense popularity as a filmmaker for my work in the movie *Shareng Bou* in 1978. My other box-office hits are *Ekhoni Shomoy*, *Dui Jibon*, *Shokhi Tumi Kaarand Bihanga*.

The film industry is now replete with producers and directors with questionable talent, that is why I prefer to stay away from the media. But, I have plans to make a film at the end of this year for ATN Bangla.'

In his long diversified performing art career Abdullah Al-Mamun has won many awards at the national level. Of those he considers the *Ekushey Padak* as the most prestigious.

The horrors of World War II come to life at a photography exhibition

HARUN UR RASHID

SIXTY five years have past since the World War II began with the German attack on May 9, 1939. And it has been 59 years after the end of that devastating War. But the memories of those terrible days are still fresh in the minds of those who were involved in that war or became victims of the senseless carnage. The erstwhile Soviet Union, now the Russian Federation, is one of those countries which took part in defending the sovereignty and fighting the aggression of the German Nazi over their land.

The Russian Cultural Centre has organised a photography exhibition to mark the 65th year of the World War II. 'The exhibition marks our stand against any form of terrorism lurking in the world at present,' said Ambassador of the Russian Federation Oleg S Malginov while inaugurating the exhibition. Justice KM Sobhan,

the President of Bangladesh-Russia Friendship Society, was also present at the inauguration ceremony.

About 30 photographs, all in black-and-white except one or two, are on display and depict different stages of the Second World War that the Soviet Union went through. They show both the horrifying and inspiring aspects of the War: the brutal Nazi cruelty and the unity displayed by the Soviet nation in order to combat that cruelty.

The Nazi brutality is seen in photos showing Nazi aircrafts bombing on the Soviet land. The horror is further intensified by a photo depicting a human hand hanging out of a furnace that the Nazis used at the concentration camps to cremate the Russian people alive. Dead bodies, thousands of them, pile up on ground in one photo that gives only a small hint of the large number of killed people.

On the other hand, many



The Victory Parade at the Red Square on June 24, 1945

photos show the spirit of the Soviet people in driving away the enemies from their land. Women replaced the men at armory plants and other places while the men were out at the warfronts. A photograph shows such women working on bombs at a plant. Another photo shows volunteers digging anti-tank ditches for the safety of the people. People helping the Red Cross, medical units of the army and other voluntary troops project the fraternal unity among the Soviet nation.

capturing the eternal moments of victory: Field Marshal Von Paulus, 16 other Generals and the southern pocket of 6th Army surrender in Stalingrad on January 31, 1943; the Berlin Conference of 1946 in Potsdam; and the Victory Parade of June 24, 1945 at the Red Square.

The exhibition is a declaration against any kind of war and terrorism—a voice for peace shared by the people across the world.

The exhibition remains open from 11 am to 7 pm till September 10.



Field Marshal Von Paulus arriving at a Russian camp for surrendering

CULTURAL FEAS



Documentary Screening
Title: Life on the Meghna and Miracle of the Ants
Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Kings Hall Ball Room, House 19, Road 7, Gulshan 1,
Time: September 3, at 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Exhibition
Art
Title: The Path Within
Artist: Nasreen Begum
Venue: Bengal Gallery of fine arts, 275/F, road 27, Dhanmondi,
Time: September 1-15, From 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Classical recital by Sarathi Chatterjee

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The High Commission of India organises a show today at the auditorium of the High Commission's Cultural Centre. The concert will feature Sarathi Chatterjee's classical vocal recital. Prasan Chatterjee will accompany the artiste on the tabla.

Sarathi Chatterjee has produced a unique style and earned credentials as one of the foremost young vocalists in India by synthesising the great traditions of *Kirana* and *Banaras Gharanas*. Prasan Chatterjee who was a disciple of Ustad Allah Rakha has also earned acceptance in the field of tabla.

The duo is conducting a training course on the traditional Hindustani style of music and tabla. In the course of their month-long stay in Dhaka, selected students will get the opportunity to learn classical music. Arranged by the High Commission's Dance and Music Academy, in the past too noted artistes were brought in to Bangladesh to train promising young students in various fields of music and dance.



Sarathi Chatterjee (c) conducting a course on classical music

Recently, the audition took place at the Academy's Dhanmondi complex, where almost 60 students took part.

BUZZ

Soha : A new face in Bollywood

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Acting, if one may say so, is in the blood of newcomer Soha Ali Khan.

And why not? Daughter of veteran actress Sharmila Tagore and sister of Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan, it was not surprising when Soha in her 20s, preferred a career in films over a banker's job after having studied at the London School of Economics.

And like her mother, Soha too began her celluloid journey with Bangla cinema. Her debut film was *Iti Srikanto*, based on Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's all-time popular novel. The film turned out to be a big hit in West Bengal after its release a few months ago. The film is slated for release in Mumbai in October this year.

After *Iti Srikanto*, Soha made an appearance in Bollywood with Hindi feature film *Dil Maange More*. The

movie, starring Shahid Kapoor, is scheduled for commercial release in November this year.

This will be followed by *Yatna* (Agony) to be directed by non-resident Indian Rajashtree Ojha. The shooting of the film, which recounts three separate stories of human relationships, is scheduled to start in October this year.

What is Soha's game plan and what is behind starting with a serious role and then switching to comedy in *Dil Maange More* and readying to do a different role in the next film? For Soha this is a conscious decision, as she does not want to get typecast with any particular genre of films or language.

Soha says 'I know it's a very competitive world and if you are not up to the mark, people are ready to overtake you.'



TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
CHANNEL-1
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.
BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTV
12:35 Satellite Programme
12:30 Shongbad Potrer
04:00 Pata Thekey
04:00 NITOL-TATA
04:00 National Football League
06:25 Special Programme on Ustad Ayat Ali Khan
07:05 Maloncho
07:30 Alif Laila
08:30 Dekha Adekha
09:00 Annyarokom Magazine
09:30 Programme: Kotha O Chhobi
10:30 Talk Show: Lal Golap
CHANNEL-i
09:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh O Public Reaction
09:45 Tritiyo Matra
10:30 Live Show: Tele Shomoy
12:00 Talk Show: Kora Alap
12:30 Drama Serial: Sharey Teen Tala
01:00 Banglar Gaan
01:25 Public Reaction
02:30 Drama Serial: Chhoto Chhoto Asha
03:00 Islam Ki Boley
04:30 Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan
05:10 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:45 Sharmoyiki
06:10 Music Plus
07:50 Weekly Drama: Gaarod
09:35 Drama Serial: Din

10:00 Choley Jai
10:00 Drama Serial: Ahonish Bhalobashey Ekjon
ATN BANGLA
07:30 The Sword of Tipu Sultan
10:25 Annodrishtee
11:05 Islamic Programme
03:40 Binodon Jummabar
05:10 Shesh Akkhor
06:20 Amra Korbo Joy
08:00 Rup Madhuri
08:30 Drama Serial: Khowab
09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni
09:30 Drama Serial: Baba Kichhukkhon
12:20 Tele film: Ek Shokaley
ntv
08:00 Aajker Shakal
08:30 Jhankar
09:00 Aain O Jibon
09:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom
10:05 Siddika Kabir's Recipe
10:30 Apnar Jigyasha
11:30 Trans World Sports
01:00 Smritir Janalay
02:30 Drama: Kranti
03:45 Circus
05:20 Tiffinir Fankey
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Nari Ghorey Bairey
08:15 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush
08:50 Pepsi Music Express
09:40 Drama Serial: Golpokothar Natak
11:25 Dindarpan

PICK OF THE DAY



Gaarod
On Channel-i at 7:50pm
Genre: Drama
Cast: Zahid Hasan, Abdul Kader, Shuvra Das, Mozammel Hossain
Shahtab, son of an honest man, comes to Dhaka for seeking a job. But the poor fellow experiences dishonorable treatment from his relatives and known persons in Dhaka. The whole city seems hostile to him. Then the twist occurs when he gets an opportunity to earn millions and enjoy the company of beautiful women. Surprisingly he refuses all these earthly things and goes back again to his poor but honest life.

TARA BANGLA
3:00 Swapner Rang
4:00 Baro Eka Lage
4:30 Filmi Furti
5:00 Khunti Kadai
6:00 Serial Yug
6:30 Taka Na Sona
7:00 Sree Ramkrishna
7:30 Tarpor Chand Uthlo
8:00 Antakshari
9:30 Swapner Rang
10:00 Baro Eka Lage
10:30 Bastab
11:00 Fully Fatafati
HBO
8:15 Night of the Creeps
10:00 Whatever It Takes
12:00 The Job
1:45 Heats in Atlantis
3:45 Exit Wounds

5:45 The Guys
7:30 Hard Rain
9:30 Legend of the Red Dragon
11:15 Sex and the City 24: La Douleur
12:00 Exquisite Sheena
HALLMARK
1:00 Mad About You
1:30 Cavedweller
3:30 Play With Me
4:00 Sesame Street
5:00 Bewitched
5:30 Family Law
7:30 Frank Herbert's Children of Dune
9:05 The District
9:55 Family Law
10:45 Frank Herbert's Children of Dune
1:00 The Burbs

STAR MOVIES
8:00 About A Boy
9:45 Carlito's Way
12:00 Army Of Darkness
1:45 Chasing Holden
3:30 Married To The Mob
5:15 Death Becomes Her
7:00 Holy Man
8:55 The 25th Hour
AXN
1:30 Now See This

(Season I)
2:00 Wrc 2004 Rally Xs:
2:30 Believe It Or Not! (Season Iv)
3:30 7 Days (Season Iii)
4:30 Rated X
5:00 The Right Stuff (Season Ii)
5:30 Global Adventure
6:30 Second Skin

8:30 Alias (Season Iii)
9:30 Axn Shake-down
10:30 World's Most Shocking Moments Caught On TapE
11:30 Bikini Destinations
12:00 Bikini Destinations
CARTOON NETWORK
8:30 Pokemon - Chikoritas Big Upset
9:00 Transformers Armada - Past
9:30 Cowardly Dog
10:00 Mike, Lu & Og
10:30 Tom and Jerry Kids - Prehistoric
11:00 Boo!
11:30 Rubadubbers
12:00 Baby Looney Tunes
12:30 A Pup Named Scooby-Doo -

Robopup
1:00 Boo!
1:30 Rubadubbers
2:00 Baby Looney Tunes
2:30 A Pup Named Scooby-Doo - Bicycle Built for Boo
3:00 The Legend of Snow White - The Calling
3:30 The Powerpuff Girls
4:00 The Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy Power Zone
4:30 X-Men: Evolution - Fun And Games
5:00 Swat Kats - Dark Side Of Swat Kats (94')
5:30 Armada - Past
6:30 Tom and Jerry Show

7:00 All New Popeye Show
The Scooby-Doo Show
7:30 Scooby-Doo, Where are You! - What a Knight
8:00 Dexter's Laboratory
8:30 Toonami
8:30 Pokemon - Chikoritas Big Upset
9:00 Transformers Armada - Past
9:30 Tom and Jerry Show
10:00 Dexter's Laboratory
10:30 The Mask - For All Mask Kind
11:00 Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries - Spooker Of The House / Furgu
11:30 The New Scooby-Doo