

Elegant indigenous designs on Eid Three brothers on three channels

NOVERA DEEPTA
EID is a time of joy and renewal. With less than a week to go before the big day, youngsters are a familiar sight at shopping malls, boutiques and other shops. These outlets boast of a range of trendy and traditional attire, both western and indigenous. The latter, particularly Chakma and Manipuri

garments, are a favourite with shoppers. In the run up to Eid, the city is dotted with many indigenous handloom fairs. In a handloom fair in Karwan Bazar, Manipuri Handicrafts offers buyers a range of apparel. Particularly attractive to buyers are the Manipuri sarees. Ranjita Singha, the proprietor of the shop, came all the way from Maulvi Bazar along with her

weavers for the fair. She said, 'I have been in this profession since 1994. We offer buyers special designs in saris, as for instance, our exquisite Rani Sari range. The sari has been designed by a Manipuri designer Rani, who lived in Sylhet around 100 years ago. The design has been passed on among the Manipuris through generations.'

Ranjita Singha draws attention to the fact that every Manipuri family has at least one weaving machine at home to make handloom saris, salwar-kamiz, three pieces, fatua, bed cover, Jali Chadars, Orna, Shauls and the traditional costume of Manipuri girls, Filop-Fanik-Blouse. These garments have a huge demand among the Bangalee women. Nilkanto Singha, another worker of the stall, said 'We want to make this attire more popular. However, as we only get meagre support from the authorities this is a difficult proposition.'

Chakma apparel is also a big seller in Dhaka. Among the stalls in the handloom fair in Shegun Bagicha is Moyon Textile which sells Chakma garments. Aparna Chakma, the salesgirl of the stall, said, 'The workers are from the hilly region of Rangamati. Our clothes and designs are in great demand around the country. However, we can hardly fulfill the demand because of several obstacles.' As she pointed out, the production cost is very high since the whole process of production, ranging from spinning the thread with Shimul Toola to colouring the fabric, is done manually by the hill people. Among the attire most in demand by the Chakma people are saris, salwar-



Handloom fairs are a natural stop for people

kamiz, and bed sheets. Equally popular are the traditional attire of Chakma girls Lefoat and Pinon Khadi --the most expensive ones. The main expenditure is due to the cost of cotton threads in which they use dyes to make the vivid colours fast and long-lasting. Rehana Akhtar, a regular wearer of Chakma garments said, 'I always buy this apparel because the bright and attractive colours are long-lasting and the quality is good, even if the price is

Photo: Afsar Ahmed

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, the three brothers--popular writer-dramatist Humayun Ahmed, science-fiction writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and cartoonist-editor of popular cartoon magazine *Ummad* Ahsan Habib--have come up with one drama and two telefilms on three satellite TV channels on this Eid.

ATN Bangla will air Humayun Ahmed's Eid special drama *Misscall*, Channel-i features Zafar Iqbal's telefilm *Ghash Phoringer Shapno* and ntv will show Ahsan Habib's telefilm *Mamla Ek Koti Taka*. Dhonichitra Ltd. and Asiatic Events Marketing Ltd jointly produce all three productions.

Humayun Ahmed's drama *Misscall*, to be aired on Eid day, is about the eccentricities and peculiar activities of a businessman named Mansur. The well-established business magnate considers the sunlight on his feet as a massage, the shadows created by the light as rail tracks. Closing his eyes he draws meaningless things on paper and gives them to his manager Zahir and secretary Rebecca to decipher.

A phone call comes late at night but Mansur does not get any response from the other end. One night he hears a boy's lament for his father. He asks Rebecca to find the boy. The secretary discovers that this is a cancer-affected boy who mistakenly dials Mansur's numbers instead of his father's. Mansur arranges treatment of the boy and decides to



Aupi Karim and co-actress in Ghash Phoringer Shapno

set up a cancer hospital investing all his wealth. After that he resolves to live his life in a pipe as he saw in the slums.

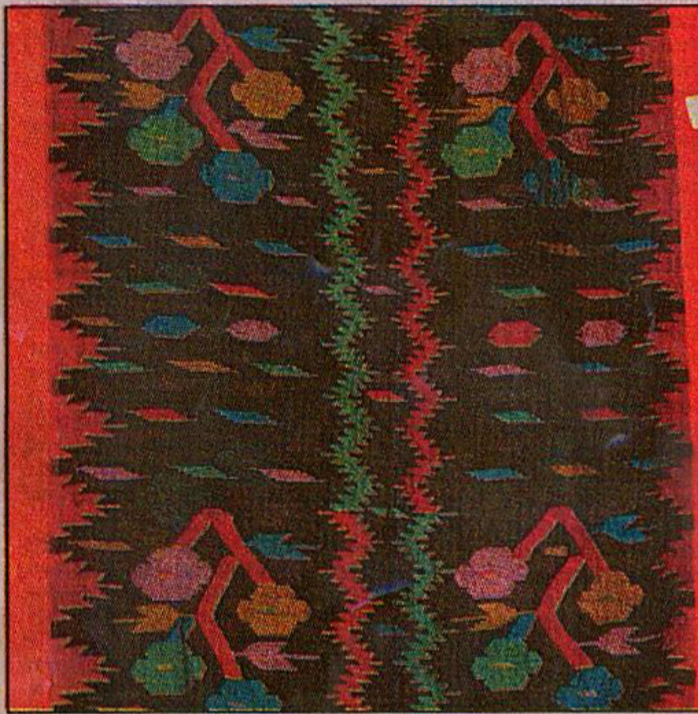
Directed by popular actor Abul Hayat, the cast of the drama has Aly Zaker, Tania, Manir Khan Shimul, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shirin Bakul, Faruq Ahmed and others.

Muhammad Zafar Iqbal's telefilm *Ghash Phoringer Shapno* tells the story of two youth--Rashed and Sharmin--who are extremely frustrated with life. Seemingly failed in life, Rashed decides to commit suicide, which he ultimately finds quite difficult. On a tip, he finally goes to the rail lines. There he meets

Sharmin, who also has come to commit suicide. However, the couple fails again. And their failure brings them closer. They decide to take one last chance to embrace death.

Intekhab Dinar and Aupi Karim play the protagonists. The other performers of the telefilm are Asaduzzaman Noor, Dr Ejaz, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Kamrul Hassan, Putu and Ushnish Kishore.

Ahsan Habib's *Mamla Ek Koti Taka* is directed by Tanvir Hasan Probal and will be aired on ntv. The performers in the telefilm are Aly Zaker, Asaduzzaman Noor, Saleh Ahmed, Champa, Shimul and others.



Rani sari: The gorgeous ethnic look

THEATRE

Brand: CAT's latest venture

A look behind the curtain

ERSHAD KAMOL

Activists of Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT), the professional theatrical troupe, are busy with daily rehearsals at the CAT premises. The aim is to prepare for their upcoming production *Brand*. Explaining the genesis of *Brand*,

Scandinavia in 1866. Although it was well received in Denmark, it gave birth to debates in Ibsen's homeland Norway.

'*Brand* is a cathartic writing experience for Ibsen. The titular character Brand is a pastor who holds himself and all of his followers, including his wife, to the rigid command of

his beliefs. The ambiguous ending has been interpreted in many contradictory ways, including that Brand's life is either meaningful or worthless. That is why *Brand* can be interpreted in different ways. My interpretation is that Henrik Ibsen's *Brand* focuses on three major points--Christian and anti-Christian war, theological debate on divinity between the Old and New Testaments, and the story of an individual fighting an existential battle to identify his belief. I think *Brand* is an intellectual fundamentalist and his role in the play is a kind of vindication of romanticism.'

As *Brand* is a six-hour play, Nilu had to edit it to make it a two and half-hour play which is standard in Bangladesh. In the process of editing, Nilu has focused on his own interpretation of the play. Nilu says, 'I have tried to reveal the conflict between religion, aestheticism and ethics. I have avoided the Scandinavian mythological references used in the play, which are not easily communicable to our audience. However, I have not modified the original script. The only difference is that at the end of the play I plan to use one of Michelangelo's painting--*Christ the Virgin and Saints*--from his *The Last Judgement* series. The logic behind doing that is the Norwegian word 'Brand' means fire, which has a devastating power. Michelangelo's painting portrays Jesus as a young beardless man having huge power and energy.'

Nilu is using Manzur-I-Moula's translation of *Brand*. He says, '*Brand* is written in the style of a poem--a more literary but less common type of modern drama. Moula has wonderfully translated the play.'

Majid, an expert on Kazakh ballet, is helping director Nilu use traditional Scandinavian folk dance for the choreography of *Brand*. For music, Nilu will use medieval church music compositions. And traditional 19th century attire of the Scandinavians have been used

for costumes of the play. Using two congested perpendicular-stagecraft as the set of *Brand* is an innovation in our country. Designer Nilu says, 'The slope of the set is quite convenient for the performers to acquire the required motion of the play. I am using white colour for the set on which colour effects will be created to portray different seasons of nature.'

CAT will stage the premier show of *Brand* on December 18 at the Experimental Theatre Stage.



A glimpse of a rehearsal of the play

Secretary General as well as the Artistic Director of CAT, Kamaluddin Nilu says, 'Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen's play *Brand* is based on the existentialist philosophy of Danish Kierkegaard and German Hegel and Nietzsche. Henrik Ibsen's religious drama *Brand* caused a huge stir when it was first published in

'Naught or All! This essentially means that people must be willing to risk their lives and all earthly attachments if they wish to find eternal salvation. Brand is tested on this faith and, even though he falters a few times, he nevertheless goes the distance, sacrificing his mother, son and wife in an attempt to adhere to

Shangkranti: A riveting play



Aranyak Natya Dal stages *Shangkranti* at Mahila Samity Stage today at 7pm. Mamunur Rashid's play depicts the miserable condition of the Shang artists. Some interesting events of the decaying art form have been presented in *Shangkranti*.

ALBUM REVIEW

Songs of Nazrul and Lalon from Commitment



HARUN UR RASHID

Here are two albums from Commitment Products: *Notun Patar Nupur Bajay*--a collection of Kazi Nazrul Islam's songs for dance; and *Khomo Oporadh*--songs of the mystic poet Lalon Shah. The Nazrul songs are sung in solos and group by five child artistes and the music director of the album, Rumi Ajnabi. Interestingly, the singer of the Lalon songs is a truck driver, who is unwilling to reveal his name.

Nazrul's songs for dance always have the rhythmic pace, which is a characteristic feature of dance itself. Added to this are the joviality of the evergreen youth, the liquid sounds in the lyrics, and use of wonderful images, drawn from natural phenomena and often associated with onomatopoeic expressions of dance *mudras*. *Notun Patar Nupur Bajay* contains 14 such tracks which are always cited as representative Nazrul songs for dance.

The tracks include *Moner rang legechhe*, *Jacy jhilmil*, *Tumi ki dokhina pabon*, *Keno mon boney*, *Rumjhum jhumjhum*, *Shukno patar nupur paye*, *Khelichhey jol debi*, *Mora jhonjhar moto uddam* and *Naacher thamokey*.

The passion and involvement of the five young singers--Anika, Farin, Shahsi, Srajan and Kanta, and their soulful singing is surely an enjoyable experience. One must appreciate the enthusiasm of these budding Nazrul Sangeet artistes.

Rumi Ajnabi sings four songs of the album: *Jhurma naach neche*, *Riniki jhinniki*, *Champa para juthi* and *Chanchal shyamal*. However, Ajnabi's expert rendition of the songs does not fit among the immature voices of the children. It somewhat mars the charm of the innocence that is featured in the songs of the youngsters.

The Lalon album contains some ten songs of the Baul King including *Ami oi charoney*, *Daaser paney ekbar*, *Anayashay dekte pabe*, *Enechhe ek nobin ghona*, *Ki shandhoney*, *Eandhar*, *Mishhijodi* and *Dika nishi thekorey mon*. The most interesting fact about the album is that listeners are bound to be willing to know the identity of the singer, who renders the songs passionately in his well-practised voice. For whatever reasons, the singer's identity is shrouded in a mystery similar to the mysticism of the songs he sings.

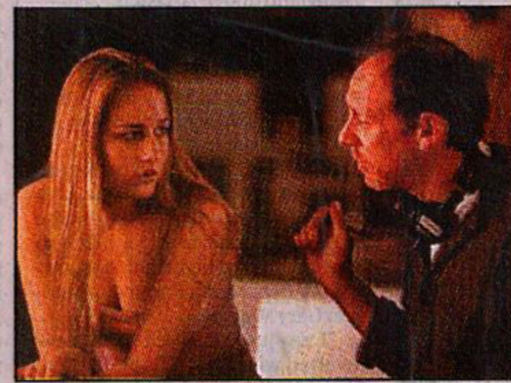


TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



The New Shabuj Opera
 On ATN Bangla at 8:30pm
 Drama Serial
 Cast: Tamalika, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Jayanto Chatterjee
 Writer: Brindabon Das, director: Mamunur Rashid



The Glass House
 On HBO at 12:15am
 Genre: Thriller
 Cast: Leellee Sobleski, Diane Lane, Stellan Skarsgard
 Director: Daniel Sackheim

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

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-i
 News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 7:15 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15am.
 Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
 News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

ntv
 Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
 Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 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
 07:30 Bangladesh Hriday Hotay
 09:00 Satellite Programme
 12:15 Saongbad Polter Pata Thekey
 12:30 Shasthya Tohya Rangdhanu
 01:05 Tohya Prajukti
 02:05 Bangla Feature Film Mahay Ramadan
 05:30 Jiboner Alo
 06:35 Granthi Bhuban
 07:30 Superman
 08:30 Drama: Bodley Jelay Paray
 10:30 Armoder Ain
 11:00 Shaposthur

CHANNEL-i
 09:30 Shongbad Polter Bangladesh and Public Reaction
 09:45 Tritiya Matra
 11:00 Agora Shopping Guide
 11:30 Din Choley Jay Sa Re Ga Ma
 12:00 Aaj Dupurey and CityCell Taroka
 12:30 Kathon
 01:00 Ebon Cinemar Gaan
 01:25 Public Reaction
 02:15 Priyo Natok
 03:40 Bangla Gaan
 04:10 RC Brain Storming
 04:50 Ramadanul Mubarak
 05:45 Manohar Itar
 06:00 Music Plus
 06:30 Aamar Chhobi
 07:50 Drama Serial: Keboli Raal Hoye Jai
 08:25 Beast Master
 09:35 Drama Serial: Shampuna Rangin
 10:00 Close Up Hit Wave

ATN BANGLA
 4:45 Annyadrishi
 7:15 Magazine show: Ek

Dui Tin
 11:35 Islamic Programme
 12:10 Eid Shambhar
 12:50 Telefilm: Baunduley Express
 03:50 Musical Programme
 04:30 Islami Sawal O Jawab
 05:10 Mobarok Ho Mahe Ramadan
 06:20 Film Show: Thunder Stone
 08:00 Drama Serial: Tane Poren
 08:30 Drama Serial: Bhawal Raja Shanyashi
 09:00 Drama Serial: Emon Jodi Hoi
 09:30 Drama Serial: Mohona Saabr Geetmala

ntv
 08:00 Aajker Shokal
 08:30 Sprosher Bairey
 09:20 Nari Gharey Bairey
 10:05 ShabliKum
 10:30 Dhakar Cinema
 02:35 Drama Serial: Sprosher Bairey
 03:15 Mahimannito Rajani Gambhira
 04:25 Mahilagan
 05:20 Shubho Shondhya
 06:50 Aain O Jibon
 08:20 Making of ntv Ek Bachhar
 08:50 Drama: Pata Jharay
 11:25 Brikkha Morey Na Dindapan

HBO
 7:15 The Relic
 9:30 Macheonna's Gold
 12:00 The Story of US
 2:00 Blue Crush
 4:15 HBO Sneak Peek: Ocean's Eleven
 4:45 Murder by Numbers
 7:15 Milk Money
 9:30 Backdraft

STAR MOVIES
 8:00 Face/Off
 10:15 Rats
 11:45 American Ninja 4
 1:30 Just A Kiss
 2:30 Kesar
 3:00 No Way Out
 5:00 Air Force One
 2700 Random Hearts
 9:15 Go
 10:45 Rats
 12:15 Me Without You

STAR GOLD
 9:10 Raju Chacha
 1:30 Hero No 1
 4:30 Jigar
 8:30 Di Ka Rishia
 12:00 Ziddi

STAR PLUS
 12:00 Kora Kagaz
 1:00 Kassauti Zindagi Kay
 1:30 Kurnum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
 2:00 Bhzbhi
 2:30 Kesar
 3:00 Saarthi
 3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhi Thi
 4:00 Kahin To Hoga
 4:30 K.Street Pali Hill
 5:00 Maan
 6:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai
 6:30 Fox Kids
 7:25 Film Topper - 301 Series
 7:30 Kurnum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
 8:00 Hello Dollie

STAR WORLD
 8:30 Dekho Magar Pyaar Se
 9:00 Kassauti Zindagi Kay
 9:30 Saara Akaash
 10:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhi Thi
 11:30 Kahin To Hoga
 12:00 K.Street Pali Hill

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 11:00 Cheating Death
 12:00 Sea Hunters The Riddles Of The Dead
 12:30 Monkey Business
 2:00 Crittercam-Wildtech Adventures

2:30 \$100 Taxi Ride
 3:00 Game For It
 3:30 National Geographic Special
 4:30 Cheating Death
 5:30 Monkey Business
 6:00 Crittercam-Wildtech Adventures
 6:30 \$100 Taxi Ride
 7:00 Game For It
 7:30 Mirado Al Sea
 8:30 Mosquito Hell
 9:30 Going To Extremes
 10:30 Riddles Of The Dead
 11:30 Cheating Death

ANIMAL PLANET
 10:00 Amazing Animal Videos
 10:30 Zookeepers
 11:00 Monkey Business
 11:30 The Ultimate Predators
 12:00 Supernatural Superstars
 12:30 Swiss Mountain Dogs
 1:00 Dalmations
 1:30 Belyaches
 2:00 The Crusher
 2:30 Yong And Wild First Steps
 3:00 The Dating Game
 3:30 Growing up... Elephant
 4:30 Animal precinct
 5:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals
 6:00 Barking Mad
 6:30 Aussie Animal Rescue
 7:00 Monkey Business
 7:30 The Ultimate Predators
 8:00 Supernatural Superstars
 8:30 Young and Wild Full Circle
 9:00 Young and Wild First Steps
 9:30 Growing Up... Lion
 10:30 India Uncovered Jeff Corwin Experience
 11:30 Awesome Opposum.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
 10:30 Warrior Women: Joan Of

11:30 Extreme Programming
 Wild Spirits 2004/05 (R)
 12:00 Gillette World Sports 2004 (R)
 12:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Crystal Palace Vs Arsenal (T)
 2:30 Asia Golf Travel Thailand (R)
 3:00 Women's Golf Samsung World Championship 2004 Usa (R)
 5:00 Sports Mania (T)
 6:00 Max Power 2004 (T)
 7:00 Tennis Bnp Paribas Masters Franco Highlights (T)
 8:00 Sportsline (L)
 8:30 Fa Cup Classic Matches Nottingham Forest Vs Tottenham Hotspur 90/91 Final
 10:30 Sportsline (R)
 11:00 Football Crazy (S)
 12:00 Futbol Mundial (T)

TEN SPORTS
 08:30 WWE: After Burn
 1:00 WTA Tour Championship: Los Angeles Day 1
 1:30 Indian Golf Show
 2:30 Italian Serie A - Highlights
 3:00 Sportswatch
 4:00 German League Highlights
 4:30 Indian Golf Show
 5:30 Trans World Sports
 6:30 WWE: The Bottom Line
 7:00 Gillette
 7:30 Sportswatch
 8:00 Indian Golf Show
 10:00 WTA Tour Championship: Los Angeles Day 1 H/L
 11:00 Trans World Sports
 12:00 WWE: The Bottom Line

ESPN
 10:00 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Southampton Vs West Bromwich Albion (R)
 12:00 Cricket Gold (R)
 2:00 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Newcastle United Vs Fulham (R)
 3:00 Football Crazy (L)
 5:00 Goals (R)
 6:00 Ufa Champions League Matchweek 4 (T)
 8:30 Sportscenter India (L)
 9:00 Cricket Gold (R)
 11:30 Sportscenter India (R)
 12:00 Sportscenter Asia (S)

STAR SPORTS
 09:00 Cricket Gold (R)
 11:00 World Yachting Series 2004 (T)