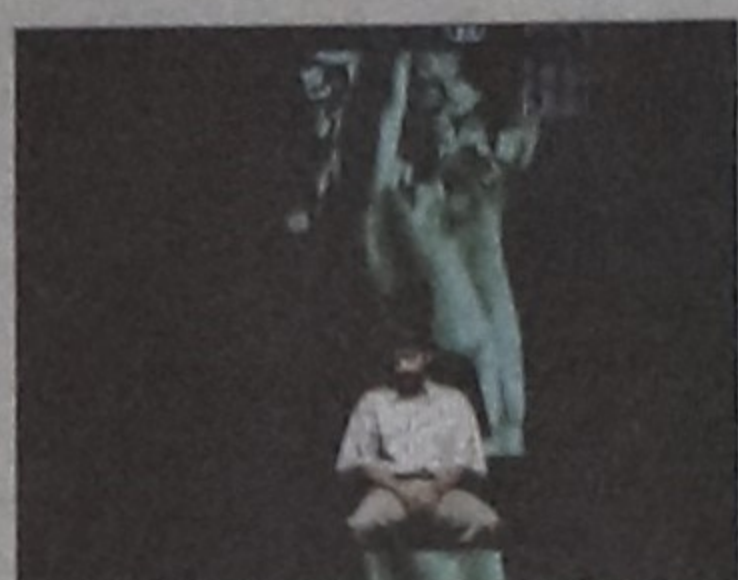


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

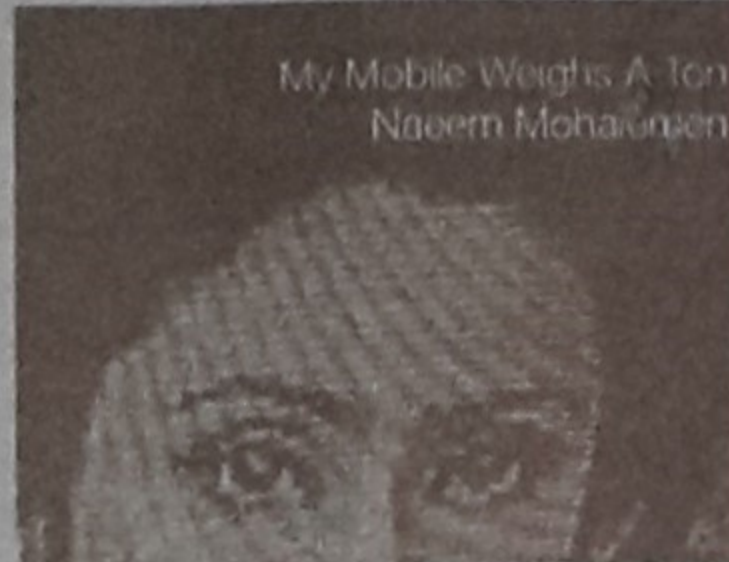
Selim Al Deen Janmo Utsab

Organiser: Dhaka Theatre and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Stage, BSA
Date: August 18-23
Time: 7pm everyday
August 22
Play: Hargoj



Installation and Photography Exhibition

Title: My Mobile Weighs A Ton
Artist: Naem Mohammedi
Venue: Gallery Chitrag, H#21, Rd 4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Time: August 21-31
Time: 10am-8pm



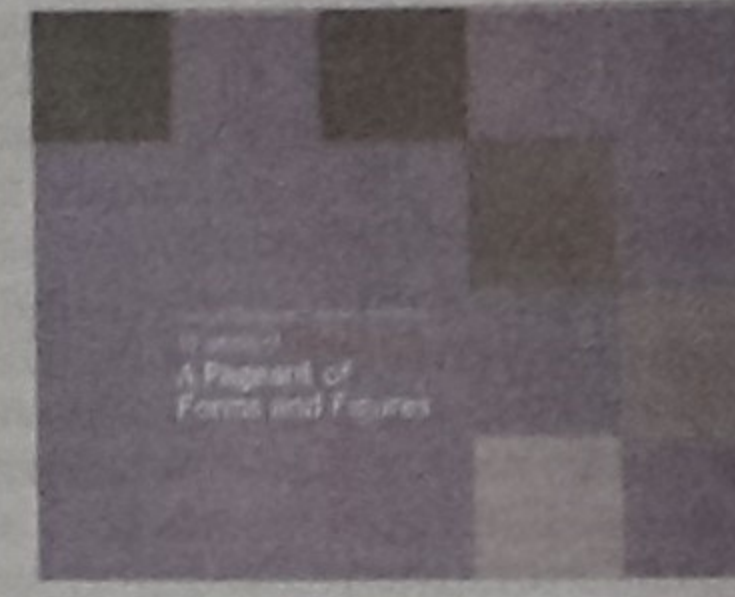
Film Screening

Documentary on Kazi Nazrul Islam
Organiser: Indian High Commission, Dhaka
Venue: Indian High Commission Cultural Centre & Library, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1
Date: August 23
Time: 6:30 pm



Group Exhibition

Title: A Pageant of Forms and Figures
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: August 22-31
Time: 12am-8pm
Inauguration: 6pm, August 22



End of an Era Abdullah Al Mamun passes away

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Abdullah Al Mamun: Nonpareil in our theatre, TV and cinema; leaves behind countless well-wishers, admirers and many friends. With his death, it is truly the end of an era in our cultural arena.

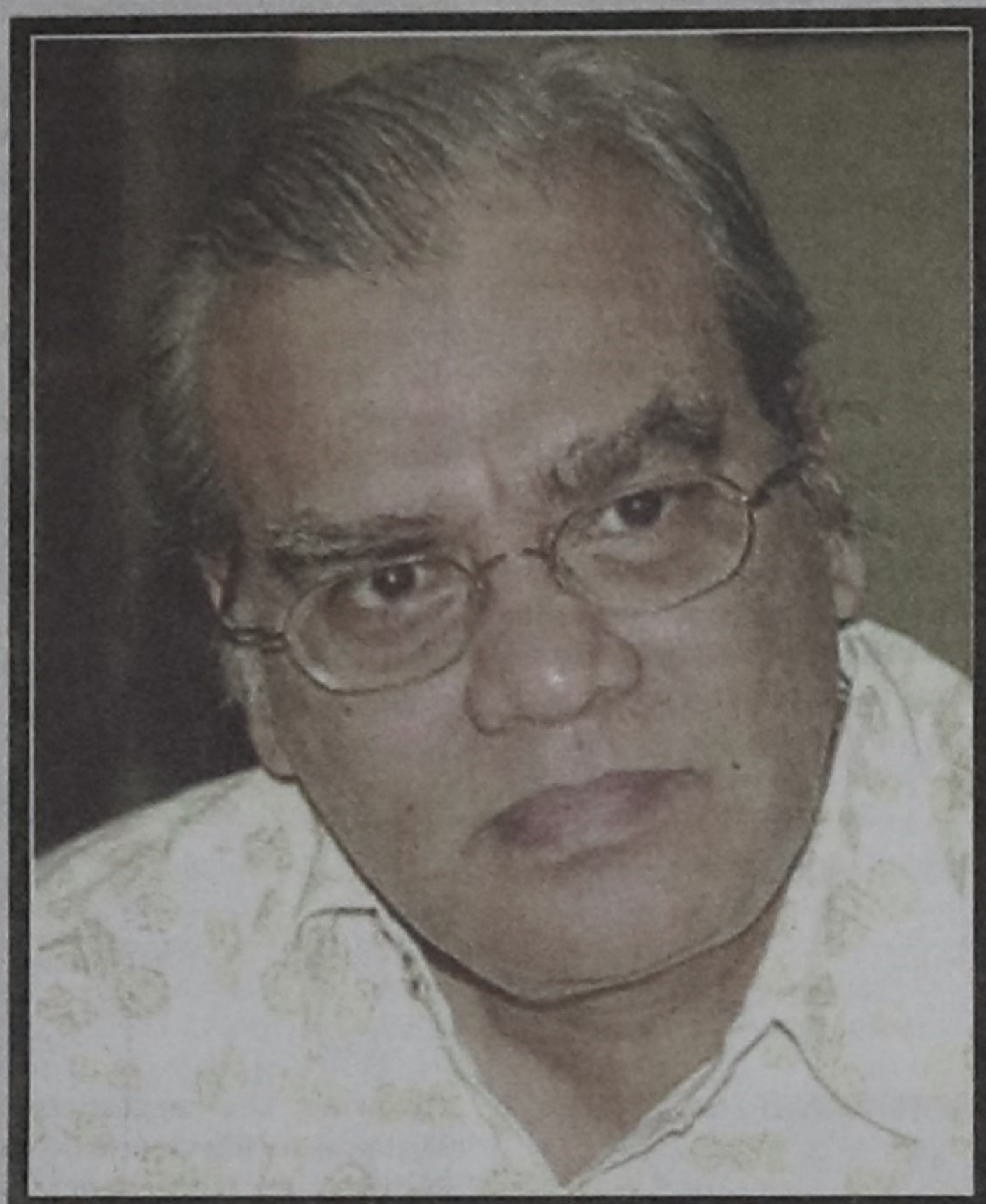
Mamun won laurels as a prolific playwright, director and a versatile actor in the theatre and TV plays.

In the 1950s he wrote his first play *Niotir Parihash*. While a student of university, Mamun along with friends and some teachers, including Shaheed Muneir Chowdhury, founded the Teachers Students Centre to stage plays as there were no formal theatre groups.

After the Liberation War, Mamun and his associates formed 'Theatre', in 1972.

He wrote 22 stage plays, bringing to light social issues and often highlighting characters representing the middle-class.

Mamun had also earned much acclaim as a filmmaker. His first film was *Angikar* (1972). However, his breakthrough work as a film director is considered to be *Shareng Bou* (1978). Other notable works include *Ekhoni Shomoy*, *Dai Jibon*, *Shohin Tuma Kaar* and *Bihango*.



In his illustrious career Abdullah Al-Mamun has won several awards at the national level including the Ekushey Padak.

Quotes from friends and colleagues:

Ferdousi Majumder: "Mamun

wrote plays keeping the limitation of the troupe in mind. He created every character keeping in mind the actor best suited for the role. I consider myself extremely fortunate that he gave me the opportunity to get into the skin of such powerful characters. Many people have talent, but only a few get a mentor who can help them hone that talent. Mamun provided an actor with that opportunity..."

Ramendu Majumdar: "Of the 38 plays produced by 'Theatre', Mamun wrote 20 and directed 22. Though he was used to multi-tasking, Mamun had the rare quality to maintain a fine balance. I guess, overwork must have played a role behind his illness..."

Mustafa Monwar: "Mamun's introduction to the TV industry happened after us. He was a bright, talented, young man who changed the face of TV plays and demonstrated how to produce extra-ordinary results working with limited resources. Quality of his works, *Shangshaptak* for instance, remains nonpareil. The theatre movement in Bangladesh would have never been successful without his involvement and he had groomed and moulded several artists who have gone on to become stars."

"Film for freshers" ends at DU

Dhaka University Film Society (DUFS) arranged a four-day film-screening programme titled "Film for Freshers '08" to welcome the newcomers on campus. The programme was held at the TSC Auditorium, DU from August 18 to 21, according to a press release. Twelve films from different countries were screened at the session.

On the first day, Professor Harun-Ur-Rashid, dean, Faculty of Social Science inaugurated the session. A.N.M. Badrul Amin was the special guest at the programme. Shomi Shurid, president of DUFS was the chairperson of the programme.

Four films were screened on the first day including *May 18* (Korea), *Life is Beautiful* (Italy), *Motorcycle Diaries* (Argentina) and *Accepted* (USA). On the second day, three films including *B-13* (France), *The Cup* (Bhutan) and *Children of Heaven* (Iran) and on the third day *Run Lola Run* (Germany), *Tsotsi* (South Africa) and *Spirited Away* (Japan) were screened.

On the fourth and final day two films including *Shankhnaad* from Bangladesh and *Monsoon Wedding* from India were screened. Unilever cosmetics brand 'Fair and Lovely' was the sponsor of the programme.

Reception for talented students in Khagrachhari

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Khagrachhari Region Commander, Brigadier General Mohammad Kamruzzaman, psc, at a recent reception said that the country is replete with talent. He urged, whom he called "the hope of the country", to work with honesty and use their skills in nation building.

He said this recently at a reception -- for students who have scored GPA-5 at the SSC exams -- organised by Natun Kuri High School at town hall auditorium in Khagrachhari. He was present as chief guest at the function.

Khagrachhari Sadar Zone commander Lt. Colonel Ihtimush Samad Chowdhury presided over the discussion while Khagrachhari Cantonment Public School and College Principal, Lt. Colonel Sharif, Khagrachhari Municipality Mayor Joyal Abedin and Major Lokman Hossein were present as special guests.

The chief guest also urged students to work hard, undertake research and take charge of their lives.

He also urged them to work towards ensuring a society free of drugs, acid violence and other anti-social activities.

A colourful cultural function was held later and talented students, including GPA-5 holders, were awarded crests.

Selim Al Deen's birth anniversary celebration Noted actors on the playwright's contribution to their careers



Shimul Yousuf

ERSHAD KAMOL

Many actors have attained acclaim acting in Selim Al Deen's plays produced by Dhaka Theatre. Some of these actors are not active in theatre any more, however, a few are still dedicated to the medium and express their gratitude to playwright Al Deen.

Starting as a child artist, Shimul Yousuf emerged on stage performing in Al Deen's plays. The seasoned actor has been dominating the theatre circuit from early 1970s. At the ongoing festival jointly organised by Dhaka Theatre and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Shimul is performing in *Joiboti Konyar Mon*, *Prachya* and *Binodini*. Moreover, she is the music composer of four plays to be staged at the festival.

Shimul said, "Selim Al Deen is my inspiration. There was a perfect synchronisation between the playwright, director Nasiruddin Yousuff and me. I'm performing in the lead roles of the plays. I've grown as an actor, working in his plays."

"He used to make suggestions in cases of music compositions, costume designs and other backstage activities," she added.

Renowned actor Shahiduzzaman Selim is also performing in Al Deen's plays since the beginning of his career. In the festival he is acting in *Joiboti Konyar Mon* and *Prachya*.



Rosey Siddiqui



Shahiduzzaman Selim

He said, "I had known Al Deen since I was a student of Jahangirnagar University. Acting in his plays -- including *Kittonkhola*, *Keramat Mongol*, *Bonopangshul*, *Hat Hadai* and *Prachya* -- has groomed me as an artiste. I've acted in Al Deen's play *Shakuntala* and later directed it for Jahangirnagar Theatre."

Actor Selim has also performed in TV plays written by Al Deen. Subsequently he has directed a mega-serial, *Protonari*, written by Al Deen.

"Not only in stage plays, Al Deen was a great craftsman as a TV playwright," he added.

Popular actor Faruk Ahmed claims that had he not met Selim Al Deen he might not have become an actor. He has been acting in Al Deen's plays for about 30 years. In his words, "Selim Al Deen inspired me to perform on stage when I was a student and had no idea of the intricacies of theatre. From him I've learnt about the art."

Faruk Ahmed is acting in two plays at the festival -- *Joiboti Konyar Mon* and *Prachya*.

Rosey Siddiqui also performs in these two Dhaka Theatre productions.

She said, "I'm moved when I perform in his plays. Though, I began acting with another troupe, as an actor I've attained maturity performing in Al Deen's plays. The inner meaning of his plays enriches the actors."



Faruk Ahmed

A special episode of "Channel i Shera Kontho"



Eleven contestants with the guests at the programme.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A special episode of the talent hunt programme "Channel i Shera Kontho '08" will be aired today at 4:05 pm on Channel i. The

programme titled *Shera Kontho: Phire Dekha Shera Gaan* will highlight some popular Bangla film songs from the 1960s and '70s. The top eleven contestants will perform the songs. Shykh Seraj has planned and produced the

programme.

Puja, one of the contestants, will perform the song, *Ei mon tomakey dilam*, from the film *Manoshi*;

Sharmin will sing *Oshru diye lekha e gaan* from *Oshru Diye Lekha* and Jhilik will render *Janina shey*

kokhon from the film *Ek-i Angey Eto Roop*.

Among other contestants, Champa, Alif, Imran, Nirbachita, Romel and Monir will render songs from the films *Shutorang*, *Shareng Bou*, *Epar Opar*, *Atithi*, *Oshru Diye Lekha* and *Moinamoti* respectively. Alif and Yousuf will render a duet song *Tumi je amar kobita* from the film *Darpachurno*. A special attraction: a performance by seasoned actors Razzaque and Kabori with a song. Clips from some of the old films will be screened during the performances.

The programme was recorded at the Channel i studio on August 10. Apart from Razzaque and Kabori, other film personalities including Sujata, Rozina and Faruk; playback singers Abdul Jabbar and Khurshid Alam, music composer Azad Rahman; filmmaker Soovas Dutt and lyricist Gazi Mazharul Anwar were present at the programme. Syed Shamsul Haque, Anwara Syed Haque, poet Fazal Sahabuddin, Ahmed Zaman Chowdhury and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Governor Bangladesh Bank were also present at the programme.

Gazi Mazharul Anwar was the MC and Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Impress Telefilm Ltd, hosted the inauguration ceremony.

Bipasha Basu promises Indian boxer Vijender a golden date



Bipasha Basu

Bipasha Basu has promised to go on a date with boxer Vijender Kumar if he brings a gold medal for India.

No, it's not a prank. The actress told a television channel that she is ready to go on a date with the boxer after a reporter informed her that Vijender is a great fan of hers.

"I have heard that he is a great fan of mine and I promise that I will go out on a date with him if he brings gold for India," Bipasha said.

Vijender Kumar defeated Carlos Gongora of Ecuador in the boxing quarter-finals at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing last Wednesday. He defeated Carlos with a 9-4 score. The victory has assured him at least a bronze medal.

Now, he needs two wins in the semi-finals to make it to the finals and to the date as promised.

Source: rediff.com



Vijender Kumar

Tom Cruise wakes up "Sleeper"

As Tom Cruise writes the next chapter in his career, he's developing an interest in comic-book movies.

With filmmaker Sam Raimi, the actor is setting up "Sleeper" as a feature project at Warner Bros. Cruise is loosely attached to star in the adaptation of the DC Comics/Wildstorm comic, which Raimi would produce with his Star Road Entertainment partner Josh Donen.

Written by Ed Brubaker with art by Sean Phillips, "Sleeper," which ran from 2003 through 2005, centres on an operative whose fusion with an alien artefact makes him impervious to pain. An intelligence agency places him undercover in a villainous organisation and he falls for Miss Misery, a member of the group.

Although he remains a co-owner of United Artists -- from which his long-time producing partner, Paula Wagner, resigned last week -- Cruise is not tied exclusively to that company.

His next acting job will be in the Spyglass thriller "Tourist," as if to counter the more cerebral roles he played in the UA box-office failure "Lions for Lambs" and the upcoming UA World War II period drama "Valkyrie," in which he plays the anti-Nazi Claus von Stauffenberg.

"Sleeper" is the third project that Cruise has become associated with over the past two weeks -- all three separate from his commit-



Tom Cruise

ments at UA. In addition to "Tourist," the actor has expressed interest in the Working Title/Universal comedy "Food Fight."

Also apart from UA, the actor picked up good notices last week for his uncharacteristic turn as a bald film mogul in the DreamWorks-Paramount comedy "Tropic Thunder."

Even if Cruise opts not to do "Sleeper," his interest in the project is propelling it, despite the challenge of complicated rights issues that must be sorted out.

"Sleeper" is a spin-off book from Wildstorm flagship title "WildC.A.T.s" and features characters from another spin-off book, "Gen 13."

Both books had been set up at different film companies around town, and some of those deals were made before DC bought the imprint in 1999.

Warners, now involved in a legal wrangle with Fox over the rights to the superhero movie "Watchmen," appears determined to cross all the t's and dot all the i's in its contracts for "Sleeper."

The project is being eyed not only as a starring vehicle for Cruise but also as a possible franchise for the studio.

Source: Internet