

<p>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</p>	<p>Tagore Birth Anniversary Celebration Organiser: Jabo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parisad and Bengal Foundation Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi Date and time: May 21 at 6.30pm</p>	<p>Films on Spanish Civil War Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society & Goethe-Institut Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi Date: May 17-21 Time: 3pm onwards</p>	<p>Solo Art Exhibition Title: Ochin Pakhi Artist: Afroza Jamil Venue: Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria (5th Floor), 57, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1 Date: May 15-31 Time: 11am-11pm (Fridays 3-11pm)</p>	<p>Classical Music Artists: Mohiuddin Babar and his sons Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum Date: May 23 Time: 7pm</p>
-----------------------------------	---	---	---	--

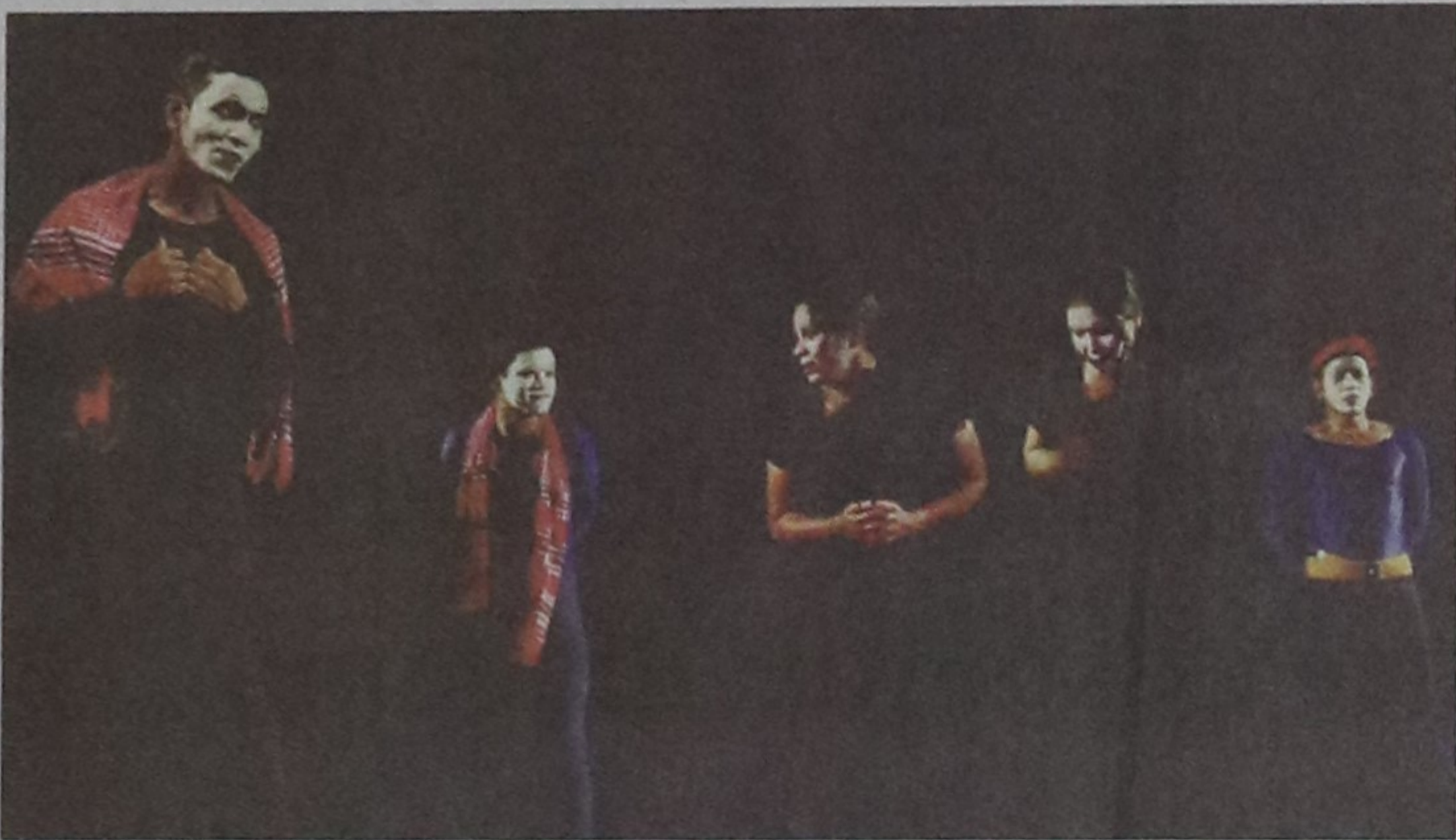
In Focus

Pantomime Movement: Silent soldiers of the stage

NADIA SARWAT

Pantomime, the performing art form where silence speaks, has not yet received much attention from the mainstream audience in our country. Several individual artists and organisations are currently working to promote pantomime, including Partha Pratim Majumder, Zillur Rahman John and Kazi Mashurul Huda. Most of them are based in Dhaka though. In this context, Chittagong-based organisation 'Pantomime Movement' is an exception. The group is doing a commendable job in popularising the art form not only in Chittagong but all over the country as well.

"Mime is a movement to us," says Rezwan Rajan, president of



Pantomime Movement is doing a commendable job in popularising the art form not only in Chittagong but all over the country as well.

groups both from Chittagong and Dhaka. President of ITI, Ramendu Majumder and theatre personality Azad Abul Kalam inaugurated the festival. Eminent theatre personalities hailed the event as an important step in Bangladeshi pantomime.

Debangshu Hor, Rezwan Rajan, S.H. Simon, and Mainul Shaon were the founding members. Later, Golam Mustafa Hero, Solaiman Mehdi, Sagar Chowdhury, Rashed Anwar, Pramal Dey, G.M. Mahiuddin, Nur-E-Akbar, Shilpi Dasgupta and others joined the group. Currently, Rezwan Rajan and Raj are two important figures in the group whose innovative direction and experimental productions are popularising the art form both in Chittagong and Dhaka.



Pantomime Movement, who considers himself and his comrades a group of silent soldiers. Since its establishment in 1995, Pantomime Movement has become a pioneer in the country as a performing group that considers the medium a means to relate to greater social causes.

Being an art form, which needs no language to communicate, mime can appeal to anyone from anywhere in the world. Thus, mime has a universal language, and Pantomime Movement wants to use it to raise awareness against social injustice. Also notable is the organisation's efforts to take the art form outside the proscenium, and

to the streets.

So far, the organisation has held over 300 performances -- street shows and on stage, workshops on mime, and festivals. The organisation became a member of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in 2004. Pantomime Movement also works for Non Violence International, an international agency generating social awareness.

The successful National Mime Festival 2009, organised by Pantomime Movement to celebrate its 14th anniversary, can be considered a milestone for the group. The three-day festival was held in Chittagong last March, featuring performance by artistes and

Play with anti-corruption message staged

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

The Youth Engagement and Support group, Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), a unit of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) staged a play at Chapainawabganj Government College premises in the town last Tuesday to generate awareness against corruption among the people.

The play, titled "Durniti Aar Na" (No more corruption) highlighted corruption in the fields of health, education, local government and its ill effects.

Eighteen members of the Youth Engagement and Support (YES) group performed in the play. Members of the group wrote the script jointly. The play was the third production by the YES group of Chapainawabganj.

N.S.M. Mahbubur Rahman Mintu, convenor of CCC, Chapainawabganj; members Saiful Islam Reza, Gouri Burman Situ, Toufiqul Islam of TIB and others were present at the programme. Hundreds of locals attended the performance.

Earlier, a three-day workshop on drama was held in Chapainawabganj, in which YES members participated.



Members of the Youth Engagement and Support (YES) group perform in the play.

ATN Bangla launches talent hunt for dancers

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Noakhali, Chittagong, Rangamati, Khulna, Barisal, Rangpur, Bogra, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Srimangal.

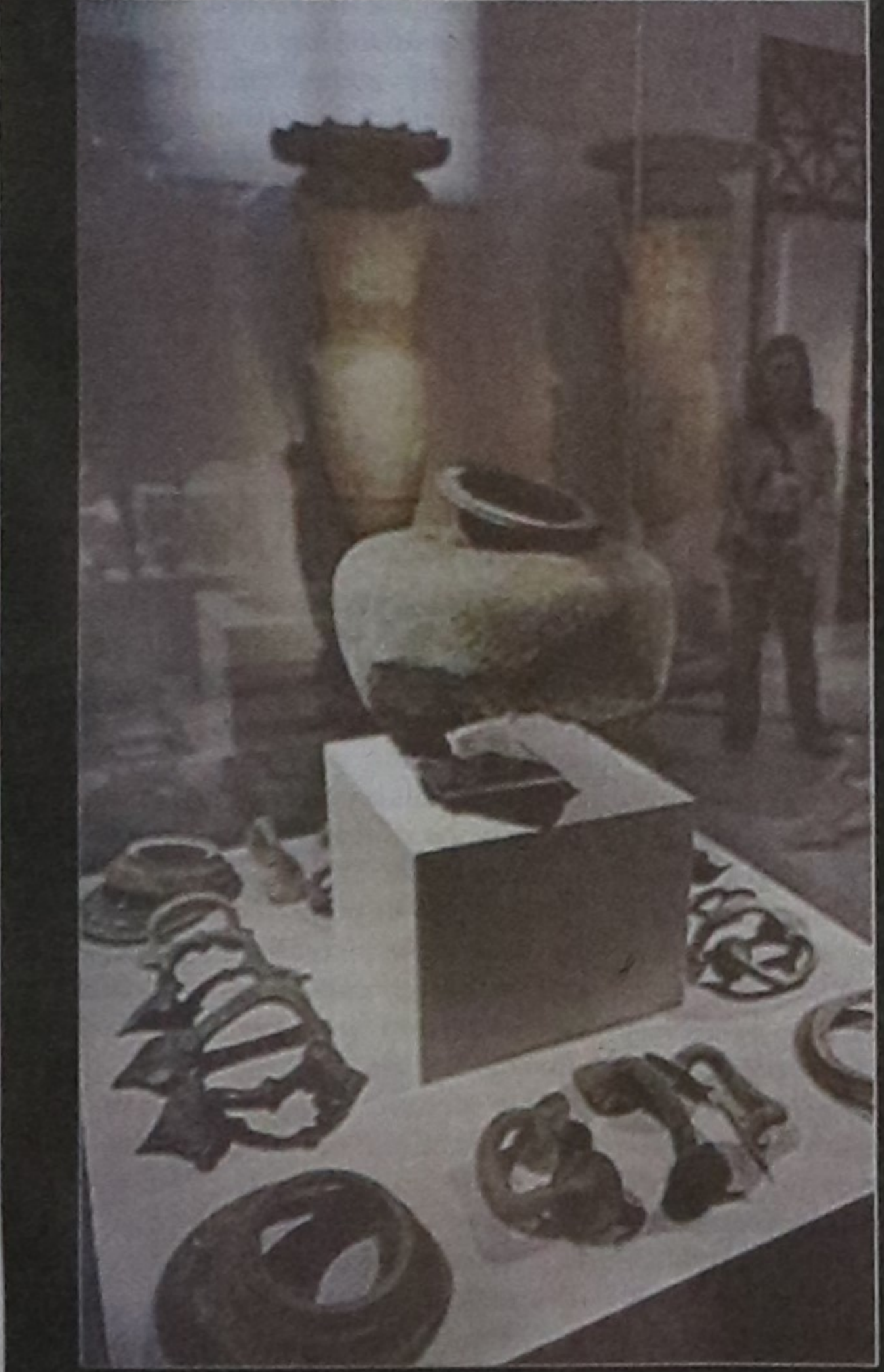
On May 19, the launching programme started with the National Anthem. Eminent Nazrul researcher Dr. Karunamaya Goswami read out a paper. Sakhawat Hossain and Saiful Bari, chief advisor, ATN Bangla, among others, spoke at the programme.

A brief cultural programme was also a part of the programme, which featured dance performances by students of Oxford International School.

ATN Bangla, in association with Oxford International School, has launched a talent "Tatka National Star," hunt for young dancers. The programme will start from June 23.

The competition will highlight group dance performances -- featuring three to six dancers, aged between seven and 18. For the initial selection, the organisers have divided the entire country into 14 zones -- Dhaka, Mymensingh, Comilla, Faridpur,

Greece gets back scores of artefacts dating to 5th century B.C.



Ancient bronze vessels and other items, repatriated from Germany, Belgium and Britain, are displayed at the National Archaeological Museum, in Athens on May 19.



AFP, Athens

Greece on Tuesday reclaimed scores of ancient objects dating to the fifth century BC that Belgian, British and German authorities returned, the culture ministry said.

The list includes over 100 clay fragments and coins held by the Belgian Archaeological School, 70 ancient funerary offerings seized by German customs officials in Nuremberg in 2007 and a marble decorative fragment from a Byzantine church donated by a British ceramist, the ministry said.

"Today societies increasingly realise that cultural goods are not just art objects...but vital links of peoples' historic identities and continuity," Greek Culture Minister Antonis Samaras said.

The ancient clay fragments and coins returned by the Belgian government came from digs at Thoriko, south of Athens, and the island of Salamis. They were taken out of Greece 40 years ago and were found at the museum of Ghent during an inventory check.

The Byzantine church fragment had been picked up in the 1950s by a British tourist from the Athenian Agora, the city's ancient marketplace, Greece's cultural attaché Victoria Solomonidou told AFP.

"After his death his wife offered it to a British ceramist who delivered it to the Greek embassy in London," she said.

In recent years Greece has stepped up efforts to recover ancient objects that illegally left the country and ended up in the possession of foreign museums and collectors.

Its main aim is to reclaim the Parthenon Marbles, priceless friezes removed in 1806 by Lord Elgin when Greece was occupied by the Ottoman Empire, which the British Museum refuses to repatriate.

The capital's new Acropolis museum that will be inaugurated on June 20 has a special section reserved for the disputed friezes.

Shambhu Ebong Shaptho on Desh TV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode TV play "Shambhu Ebong Shaptho" will be aired tonight on Desh TV at 10:02pm. Sanjay Sarkar and Manabi Sarkar have jointly written the play. Sazzad Sony and M.A. Munna are the co-directors.

The story revolves around a 'dom' (morgue attendant). Shambhu, the 'dom,' rents a place far from his workplace to hide his professional identity from his ten-year old daughter, Lakkhi. But his identity is revealed one day, when Shambhu takes Lakkhi to a school to get her enrolled. Lakkhi learns that her father's profession involves handling corpses. This causes Lakkhi to fear her father and Shibu, Shambhu's assistant at the morgue. Eventually, this fear induces an illness in the young girl.

Shambhu decides to send Lakkhi away from home. Tragedy ensues when Lakkhi dies in an accident and Shambhu has to prepare for an autopsy on his daughter's corpse.

Azad Abul Kalam plays the role of Shambhu. Dipa Khandakar, Joyraj and Pragna play the other central characters. Rahul Anand has done the background music for the play.



Azad Abul Kalam (left) and co-actor in the play.