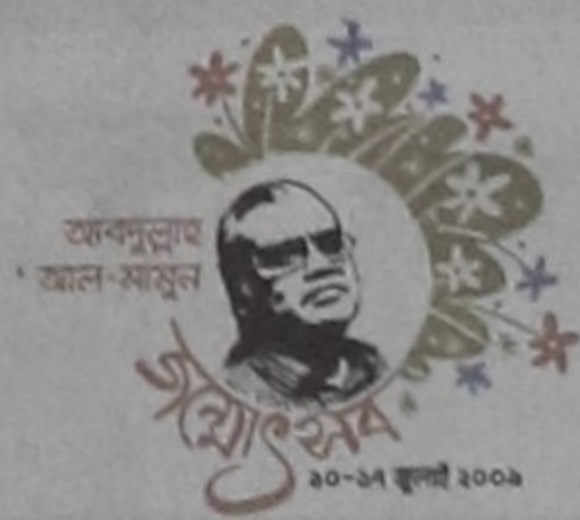


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre Festival
To celebrate Abdullah Al Mamun birth anniversary
Organiser: Theatre and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Stage, BSA
Date: July 10-17, Time: 7:30pm
Today: 'Meraj Fakir-e-Ma' by Theatre



Rabindra Festival
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban, Dhanmondi
Date: July 17-18
Time: 10am (1st day), 6pm (2nd day)



Musical Soiree
Title: Shatobarsher Barshar Gaan (2nd phase)
Organiser: Nibedan
Venue: National Music & Dance Centre, Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 17
Time: 8pm



Concert: Tribute to King of Pop
Organiser: Jaadu (MJ) Events
Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre
Date: July 18
Time: 7pm



Abdullah Al Mamun Theatre Festival

"Tritio Purush" and "Mike Master" staged



JAMIL MAHMUD

As part of the ongoing theatre festival celebrating Abdullah Al Mamun's birth anniversary, two plays were staged at the National Theatre Hall,

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on July 15. The Department of Theatre and Music, Dhaka University staged "Tritio Purush" (Third Person), while Theatre staged "Mike Master."

While Mamun has a num-



Scenes from "Mike Master" and "Tritio Purush."

PHOTO: MUMIT M

ber of acclaimed plays to his credit, "Tritio Purush" is less known. The spirit of the Liberation War, a common theme in most Mamun plays, surfaces once more in "Tritio Purush." The play features only two characters -- Laila, widow of a martyred Freedom Fighter and Imam, the friend of the Freedom Fighter.

Tired of the strains of daily life, Laila decides to retreat from society and begins to live alone in Cox's Bazar. She wants to spend the rest of her life with the precious memories of her life with Zafar.

One day, Imam suddenly

arrives at her home to discuss how they should preserve the legacy of Zafar for future generations. Gradually the conversation between Laila and Imam takes centre stage.

However, Laila distrusts Imam and despite the constant efforts by the latter to convince her otherwise, remains firm -- a mirror on the good and evil elements that exist in our society.

Taskin Binte Siddique and Abul Bashar Md. Ziaul Haque Bhuiyan play the role of Laila and Imam respectively. Bhuiyan is the director of the play as well. Sanjib Kumar

Dey, Md. Zahid Hossain and Camellia Moushumi Khan did the stage designing.

Though Zafar does not appear on stage, his presence looms large throughout as a counterfoil to the other protagonists.

After "Tritio Purush," Theatre staged "Mike Master," which was last staged in 2001. Farhad Zaman Polash has simultaneously conceptualised, directed and acted solo in the play.

Zillur Rahman was the light director of the play and Golam Shahriar Shikto did the stage design.

Anisul Haq and Kanakchapa on Rtv

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Everyone has dreams but very few can turn their aspirations into reality. This truth forms the central theme of talk show "Dhrupodi Kahini." The programme, featuring journalist, litterateur and playwright Anisul Haq and artist Kanakchapa Chakma, will go on air tonight on RTV at 6:45 pm. The prominent personalities share the stories behind their success and some hilarious incidents as well. The programme is compiled, directed and hosted by Shanta Islam.



Anisul Haq and Kanakchapa share their experiences on the programme.

Different Touch on Call-er Gaan tonight



Different Touch will perform live on the show.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Sraboner meghgulo jaro holo akashey" is one of the

most popular songs from the early '90s. The band Different Touch shot to fame with this song but after some years virtually disappeared from

the music scenario.

Recently the band resumed its performances and appeared in numerous programmes. Different Touch will perform on Desh TV's musical show "Call-er Gaan" tonight. The show will be aired live from the channel's studio at 11:45 pm.

Apart from "Sraboner meghgulo," the band's other popular numbers include "Rajneeti," "Mon kijey chai bolo" and "Sharnolata."

Viewers can talk to the members of Different Touch over the phone and send song requests through SMS. "Call-er Gaan" is produced by Alamgir Hussain.

ALBUM REVIEW

Jugolshondhi: Zubayer's concoction of eastern and western melodies

KARIM WAHEED

Those, who have been keeping up with *adhunik* (contemporary) songs, are familiar with Swani Zubayer. Zubayer's compositions sparkle with poetic prowess -- an unmistakable trait of *ghazal*. The talented singer-composer, however, feels that his songs do not precisely follow the form of traditional *ghazal*. His previous albums "Nirjon Shakkhor" and "Ojosso Kobita" were highly appreciated by music enthusiasts in the country, in particular those who crave variety.

His latest album "Jugolshondhi" (a Laser Vision production) is a music assortment on more than one level: not only does the album include songs belonging to diverse genres, it also features six of the leading singers (and Zubayer himself) of the country. All songs have been composed and arranged by Zubayer; a special attraction is an orchestral composition (live version) performed by the Royal College Symphony Orchestra (Stockholm, Sweden).

Eleven tracks of the album demonstrate Zubayer's musical background. His *taleem* (training) in Indian classical music began in 1993 under the supervision of Ustad Mazhar Ali Khan and Jawad Ali Khan (grandsons of the legendary Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan) of Kasur Patiala Gharana. Zubayer did his Masters in Western Classical Composition from Royal College of Music in

Stockholm. His passion for both Indian and western classical music are seemingly not mutually exclusive.

The first track "Ghum ashey na" (Insomnia), rendered by Zubayer, features a brilliant *sarod* intro. Its certainly *adhunik*, yet unmistakable traces of *ghazal* are apparent as the singer croons "jegey thekey ami hoyechhi shopnochari, dekhi shopno danaar palokey palokey

morchey be(n)dhechhey bari." The bridge to *shonchari* (part of a composition usually sung in lower pitch) is made memorable by a *sarangi* piece. The singer effortlessly glides from one octave to another, but it's that grain in his voice that is the much sought after *je ne sais quoi*.

"Chheleti" (Jugolshondhi), featuring Fahmida Nabi, is likely to take a connoisseur to the Italian countryside, on a

gondola if you will. Well-executed Mandolin, violin and guitar throughout the number make it a Bangla *adhunik* song with the feel of an Italian ballad.

"Chhotto meye" brings to mind R.D. Burman compositions (circa mid '80s). One could easily imagine Asha Bhosle lovingly humming it. The composer's selection of the singer -- Krishnokoli -- is quite appropriate.

Krishnokoli's rendering is endearing, as she breathes life into "Chhotto meye tumi naki koshtey achho, ki holo tomar, mukh keno kalo, amaye bolo."

Seasoned Nazrul singer Khairul Anam Shakil sings "Kachhey ashbo," another *ghazal* influenced number. This is perhaps one of the best-executed compositions featured in the album. Shakil's baritone is ideal for this romantic song.

Lucky Akhand sings "Smritir kagoj." Featuring guitar and percussion, the Latin nuance in this composition is subtle yet definitive. "Tomaye aami," sung by Partho Barua, is at its best average. Samina Chowdhury's rendition of "Shondhya boye gelo" is easy on the ear thanks to the singers experience in working the audience's intrigue. Zubayer returns with another cover of "Chhotto meye." However, after Krishnokoli's emotive rendition, Zubayer's version sounds redundant.

"The Golden Land," an orchestral composition by Zubayer (the 10th track), refers to Bangladesh and the changes in nature here throughout the six seasons. The USP of the composition: Shades of six ragas -- Malkaunse, Des, Mishra Pahadi, Kedar, Sohni and Vasant -- in a western classical set-up.

"Jugolshondhi" works as a concoction of diverse genres but on the whole, it somehow lacks the excitement and fresh sound the composer's previous albums have.



Cover of the album.

Half-Blood Prince stars imagine post-Potter future

It's been eight years since Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint first hopped on the Hogwarts Express, and the three have done little else since.

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint have kept each other "level-headed," said Radcliffe.

Now that the ride will soon come to an end, the cast is trying to fathom a life without the Harry Potter films -- an understandable difficulty, considering that they've grown up along with their characters.

The other item showing its age is the storyline of the sixth instalment, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince." Part humour and part horror with a healthy dose of hormones, "Half-Blood Prince" is clearly more attuned for an audience who, like the cast, are no longer in grade school.

"On the one hand, we have all this light romance and snogging, and on the other hand, people are getting killed, and bridges are being blown up," director David Yates said.

Heavy stuff, certainly, but it's a challenge on par with the stars' blossoming careers.

One can only imagine that by now, the Potter series feels like home to Daniel Radcliffe, who landed the title role at 11 after playing supporting roles in the BBC's "David Copperfield" and the 2001 film "The Tailor in Panama."

"(Without it), to be honest, I don't know what I would've done," said Radcliffe, who turns 20 on July 23. "I had 'Copperfield,' but at that point I wasn't even dreaming about (acting) being a career then."

Since then, Radcliffe has grown into international stardom, reportedly earning \$25 million per Potter film. Indeed, the actor has gotten raves away from the movie

theatre: In London and on Broadway, Radcliffe took on the role of Alan Strang, the mentally disturbed stable boy in Peter Shaffer's "Equus."

Radcliffe has also taken on roles in "December Boys" and the TV movie "My Boy Jack," and he is eager to keep at it long after the Potter series wraps.

As for Watson, when she's not occupied with filming, she can be found in the pages of fashion magazines -- including the advertisements.

Having landed covers for both Teen Vogue and the UK version of Elle within the past few months, it's no wonder

was "life or death" for her.

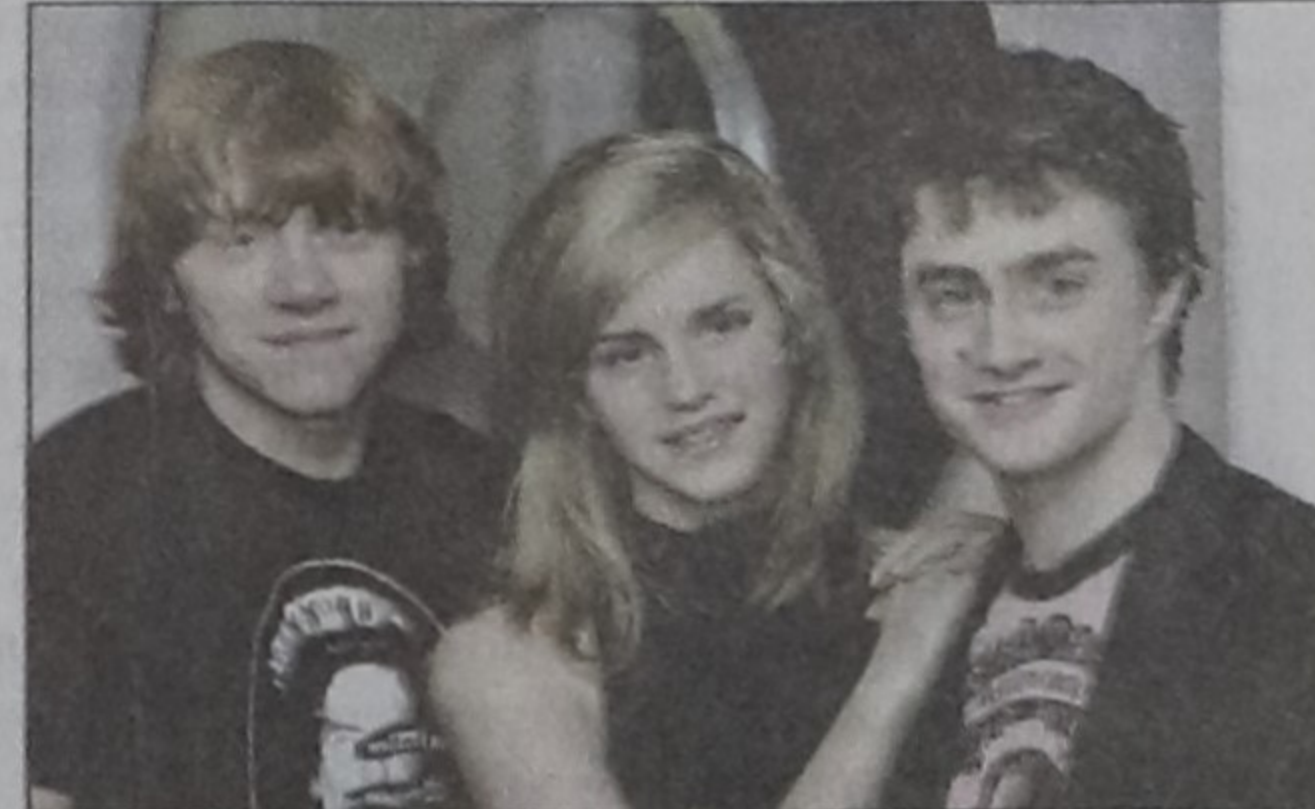
Now that the series is close to its end, the actress is eager to try new things.

"I would've told myself not to take it so seriously and to try to have as much fun as you can," Watson said she would've advised her younger self.

But similar to her Potter character, Hermione, Watson is eager to hit the books after the series concludes. The actress confirmed that she plans to start college in the United States this fall.

For Grint, the future is a bit more unclear.

"I don't know what I'm



"Harry Potter" stars Rupert Grint, Emma Watson and Daniel Radcliffe.

that the 19-year-old was chosen to be the face of Burberry's autumn line. Going from tween wizard to fashion icon is quite a leap, but it's one that appears to fit Watson well; how many other Hogwarts students can count Karl Lagerfeld among their friends?

Like her co-star Rupert Grint (Ron), Watson didn't have any acting experience when she auditioned for "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" at age 9. She managed to beat out thousands of other girls for the role of Hermione, a part she's said

going to be doing, really," the actor told the Los Angeles Times. "I'm going to miss it, I think, because I've been doing this my whole life."

His third film outside the Potter series will be the indie "Wild Target," co-starring another British sensation, Emily Blunt.

Whatever their plans, all three have a few years to go before they hang up their magic wands; the last instalment of "Harry Potter" is being filmed in two parts, and the final film won't premiere until 2011.

Source: CNN