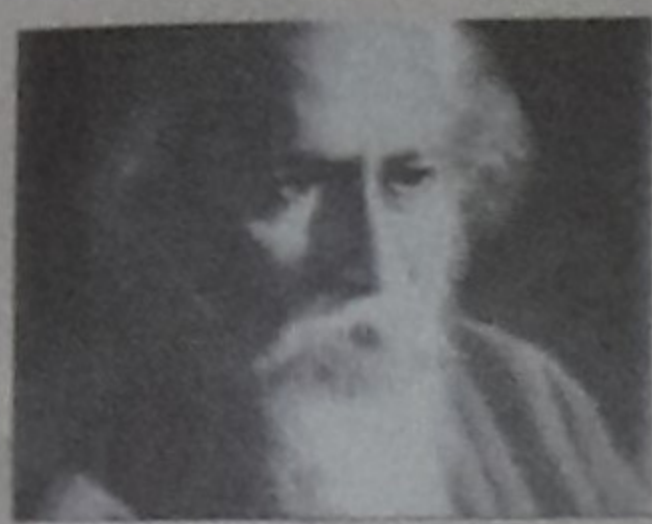


WHAT'S
ON THIS
WEEK

Musical Soiree

Title: Jharichhey
Srabono Dhara
Organiser: Nandan
Venue: Chhayanaut,
Dhanmondi
Date: July 24
Time: 7:15pm

Photography
Exhibition

Title: Survivors
Artist: GMS Akash
Organiser: Alliance
Francaise of Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise
of Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road,
Dhanmondi
Date: August 14-27



Theatre

Play: Che'r Cycle
Troupe: Bangla
Theatre
Venue: Studio Theatre
Hall, Shilpakala
Academy
Date: July 24
Time: 6:30pm



Film Screening

Film: Tajuddin Ahmed:
An Unsung Hero
Director: Tanvir
Mokammel
Venue: Bangladesh Film
Centre, 160, Lake
Circus, Kalabagan
Date: July 23
Time: 6pm

Life and times of
Tajuddin Ahmed

Special programme on Rtv



Tajuddin Ahmed with family members.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 84th birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmed, one of the most influential political leaders in the history of Bangladesh. Tajuddin Ahmed played an active role during the Liberation War. He was the Prime Minister of the then Mujibnagar government, guiding a nation at war against the Pakistani army.

After independence, his contribution behind rebuilding of the country was also significant. However, despite his sacrifices and contribution, not much is known about him.

To pay tribute on his birth anniversary, Rtv will telecast a special programme on Tajuddin

Ahmed, titled "Dripto Shopothey Abichal Shongrami." Divided in segments, the programme will feature childhood, education and personal life of Tajuddin Ahmed; political life during the pre-Liberation War, contributions during the war, post-war era and more. At the programme sector commander Abu Osman Chowdhury; Barrister Amir-ul Islam; Simin Hossain (daughter of Tajuddin Ahmed) and Ansar Ali (Tajuddin's childhood friend) will share their memories and views on the great leader.

The show will be aired at 6:45 pm today. The programme has been produced by Minhazur Rahman. Delwar Hossain has done the research work and scripts.

Remembering Abdullah Al-Mamun
on tonight's "Talk Chart"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Theatre icon Abdullah Al-Mamun is the highlight of today's "Talk Chart." ATN Bangla will air the special episode of the talk show at 2:30 pm.

Recently Theatre arranged a festival featuring Abdullah Al-Mamun plays at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Ramendu Majumdar, on behalf of the organisers, and Syed Mahbubur Rahman, deputy managing director, BRAC

Bank (sponsor of the event) have discussed Mamun's timeless works on the show.

They also reminisced different aspects of Mamun's life and suggested what BTv should do to preserve his works. "Talk Chart" is compiled, planned and anchored by Tanvir Tarek.

Theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuff has also taken part in the programme over telephone. "Talk Chart" is produced by Bilash Khan.



Ramendu Majumdar with the host of the programme.



Theatre Troupe Natyaloy staged "Daakghar," an adaptation of a story by Rabindranath Tagore (with the same title) at Mahila Samiti Auditorium on July 21. The play was directed by Mirza Abdur Razzak.

Mahakal's theatre
festival begins

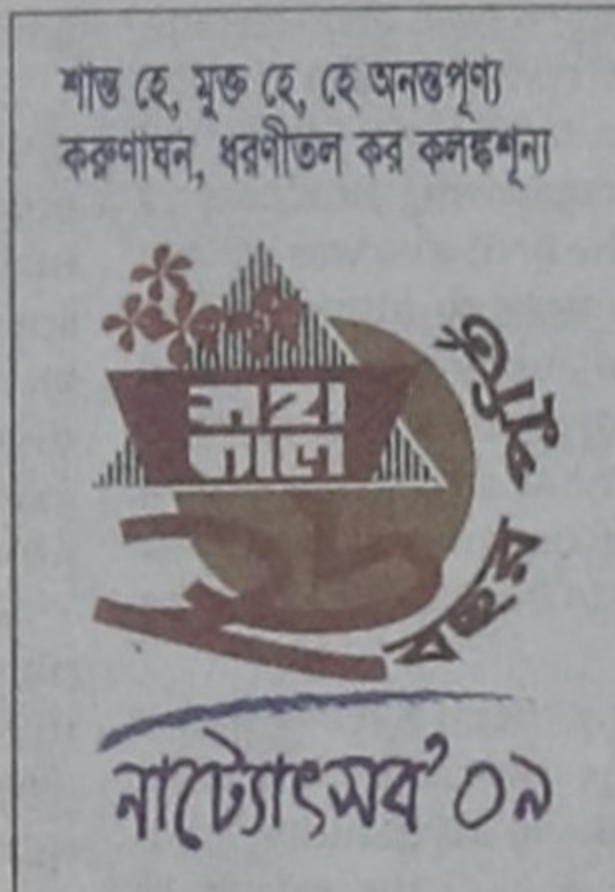
CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate its 26th anniversary, Mahakal Natya Sampraday has organised a weeklong theatre festival. The festival begins today at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Theatre troupes from six divisions of the country will be staging their plays at the festival. Mahakal will stage two of its productions. Today, as part of the inaugural programme, Aikik Theatre from Narayanganj will stage "Antorjatra."

The inaugural session will have ITI President Ramendu Majumdar as the chief guest. Among others, theatre personalities Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Yousuff, chairman and secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Liaquat Ali Lucky and Jhuna Chowdhury respectively, and Professor Afsar Ahmed will be present as guests at the programme.

Mahakal will stage its pro-



duction "Ghum Nei" on July 24 (11am) and "Ahom Tamoshay" on July 29.

Other plays to be staged at the festival are: "Madhumala" (Trijak Natyadal, Chittagong), "Kaibarto Gantha" (Bibartan, Jessore), "Nuruldin-er Shara Jibon" (Bogra Theatre, Bogra), "Kamolabotir Pala" (Jibon Sanket Natya Goshthi, Habiganj) and "Jungle Dahon" (Shabdabali Group Theatre, Barisal). No play will be staged on July 28. Everyday the programme will start at 8pm.

Jatra's certificate
course in acting

To give prospective actors a grounding in performing arts and acting, the Jatra School of Performing Arts will offer a three-month certificate course in acting, according to a press release.

The classes will be held at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Dhanmondi on Fridays and Saturdays.

Noted media personalities will deliver lectures to the budding actors. Mohammad Sajjad Hossain is the conductor, while noted media personality Aly Zaker will be advisor.

Students will get thorough lessons in various aspects of the performing arts, including dramatics, aesthetics of acting, modern dance, yoga and meditation. The last day for registration is July 31. Classes are due to start from August 7.

Spider-Man director
agrees to take on
Warcraft project

Legendary Pictures, which joined Warner Brothers in backing "The Dark Knight" and "300," took a big step toward assembling what may be its next blockbuster franchise: the company said on Tuesday that Sam Raimi had agreed to direct a movie based on the World of Warcraft online game and fantasy universe.

Raimi directed three films in Sony's "Spider-Man" series and is expected to start shooting a fourth this fall, set for release in 2011. His signing with "World of Warcraft" makes that film one of the strongest bets on the Warner schedule as early as 2012.

Blizzard Entertainment, which introduced its first Warcraft game in 1994, began developing the current film version with Legendary three years ago. With more than 11 million monthly subscribers, the Warcraft series has been widely described as the most heavily played of the multiplayer online games, which pit players against one another via the Internet.

Warner, which is expected to be a co-financier of the "Warcraft" movie and to distribute it, has been hungry for new film series to augment a roster of high-budget fantasy and action franchises that include the Batman, Superman and Harry Potter films. The studio flirted with, then pulled back from, a "Justice League of America" project that would have put some of its DC Comics-based heroes, including Batman and Superman, in a single film.

And it had a misfire this year with "Watchmen," an expensive picture based on a graphic novel, of which Legendary was co-financier. That film underperformed at the box office and was not seen as a good candidate for sequels because ardent fans were so insistent on fidelity to the complex, underlying story, about the decline of masked crime fighters.

It was not immediately clear when production might start on the "Warcraft" film, which would be delayed until Raimi finishes with "Spider-Man 4." He last directed "Drag Me to Hell," a supernatural horror picture that was not intended as a broad crowd pleaser and took in only about \$42 million at the domestic box office when it was released by Universal Pictures in May.

Charles Roven, a producer of "The Dark Knight," is among the producers of the "Warcraft" film, Legendary said.

Source: Internet

Art competition on Col. Taher's
33rd death anniversary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Children and adolescents from different schools of the city participated in an art competition at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University on the occasion of Colonel Taher's 33rd death anniversary (July 21). The competition was held on July 17.

Shishir Bhattacharya and Dr. Abul Barakat were judges of the competition. Participants were divided into three sections -- 'Ka,' 'Kha' and 'Ga.'

Ankur Saha, Rifah Tasnim Aroni and Jannatul Ferdouse Smriti from 'Ka,' 'Kha' and 'Ga' sections respectively won the 'Uttam' (Best) award. Fatema Noor Afra, Ramis Fariha

and Zahidul Islam from 'Ka' section; Rifat Bin Rahman, Zahin Ferdous Kashfia and Aranoka Tahsin from 'Kha' group and Mostafizur Rahman Sajal, Jyoti Rani Gauro and Nitu Saha from 'Ga' section received the 'Sundar' (Fair) award.

On July 21, a discussion was held at the TSC Auditorium to mark Colonel Taher's death anniversary. Professor Anu Muhammad, Professor Muntasir Mamun, lawmakers Rashed Khan Menon and Hasanul Haq Inu delivered speeches on the occasion. Professor Anwar Hussain presided over the meeting.

Later crests, certificates and prizes were handed among the winners of the art competition.



PHOTO: STAR

Participants busy painting at the art competition held at FFA, DU.

Raima and Riya Sen in
Rituparno's Noukadubi

Granddaughters of legendary screen diva Suchitra Sen, Riya and Raima Sen, will be seen sharing screen space together for the first time in Rituparno Ghosh's "Noukadubi."

Apparently, Rituparno had approached Riya and Raima for the film at the same time and both of them even received the script together. They were offered two very diverse roles and both of them had no qualms playing the characters. According to sources, Riya initially thought Raima's character had a lot more prominence and had much more scope and dimension to it as compared to hers. But being a thorough professional and a doting sister, Riya chose to go ahead with the role she was offered, as it was extremely challenging. What's interesting about the entire episode is that both the actresses are playing roles very contrary to their public image. While Riya Sen will be seen in a complete de-glam avatar, Raima will be playing a sophisticated woman.

"Noukadubi" is an adaptation of a Rabindranath Tagore novel with the same title. The tale of mistaken identities revolves around a newly-married couple separated when their boat capsizes and a storm tosses them into the river. The groom wakes up to find himself and a young bride on the shore. He returns home with the girl only to learn later that she is someone else's wife.

Apart from Raima and Riya Sen, the film also stars Jishu Sengupta, Priyanshu Chatterjee and Sharmila Tagore. Riya plays Kamala and Raima is Hemmalini.



Raima (left) and Riya Sen.

"Noukadubi" follows Anjan Dutt's failed attempt to cast the Sen sisters in "The Bong Connection"; Riya was later replaced by Peeya Rai Chowdhuri.

About the film, Rituparno said, "The idea of making a film on 'Noukadubi' germinated while we were shooting for 'Abohoman.' I would discuss with Titoda (Dipankar De) if there's any place for Bengali literature in popular cinema because there's a tendency to classify any literature-based film as an art film."

"I felt 'Noukadubi' has all the ingredients of a mainstream, rather popular, film.

A couple is separated and there's a lot of melodrama. 'Noukadubi' won't have the complicated narrative of Chokher Bali."

"I am setting the film in 1925. But it would be visually different from 'Chokher Bali.' Tagore seldom specifies the period in his stories but I'm bringing it a little forward."

"I decided against setting 'Noukadubi' in the contemporary period as I felt it won't remain the same story anymore. 'Noukadubi' has to be seen from the point of that period's conventional morality. Chastity plays a major role in the film. Morality is very important. It's a bit surprising coming from Tagore and that too after he had written 'Streer Patra' and 'Chokher Bali.' I want to question this idea," added the director.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent