

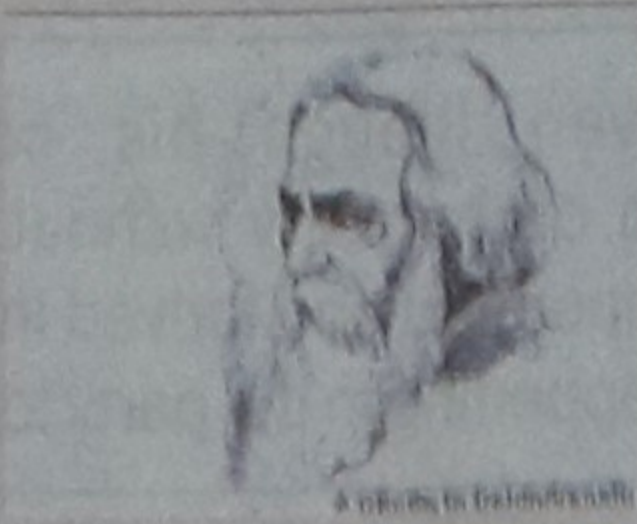
## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Sensation Within  
Artist: KMA Quayyum  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
Date: July 24-August 4  
Time: 12-8pm



### CD Launch

Title: Tomar Khola  
Hawa  
Artist: Samina Chowdhury  
Venue: Bengal Foundation, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
Date: July 31  
Time: 7:30pm



### Photography Exhibition

To mark the 84th birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmed  
Organiser: Liberation War Museum (LWM)  
Venue: LWM, 5, Shegunbagicha  
Date: July 23-29



### Art Exhibition

Title: Shishu Chitro Prodorshoni 2009  
Organiser: Zainul Abedin Art School  
Venue: National Museum, Shahbag  
Date: July 24-August 4  
Time: 12-8pm



## "I want to change my image"

-- Sharmin Shila



### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TV actress Sharmin Shila is a familiar face on the small screen. Among her popular TV serials are "Lal Neel Beguni," "Aarshi" and "Ek Akasher Tara." In an interview with The Daily Star, the actress gave glimpses of her professional and personal life. Excerpts:

**The Daily Star:** Do you think a background in theatre is a plus point for TV actors?

**Shila:** I don't think it's a must because there is very little similarity between theatre and television. On stage we

have to deal with body language more than the expressions, we hardly have any hesitation in playing diverse roles. On the contrary, TV is more complex because it is a close up medium.

**TDS:** What are the ingredients of a successful actor?

**Shila:** Sincerity is a key factor. Then comes the question of simplicity. An actor must also identify with the character completely.

**TDS:** If you got a chance to ask a senior artiste for advice, what would it be?

**Shila:** I would ask them how I could improve my performance and grow as an

actress.

**TDS:** Who are your idols?  
**Shila:** Without doubt, Subarna Mustafa, Afsana Mimi and Asaduzzaman Noor.

**TDS:** How do you assess the present scenario of the entertainment world?

**Shila:** Most of the directors and viewers complain that today's artistes lack sincerity because of so-called "professionalism." Many artistes believe that acting in a number of productions simultaneously is professionalism, while portraying the role properly is less important. The newcomers need a break so that the audience would not have to watch the stereotypical performances of the artistes.

**TDS:** What is your dream role?

**Shila:** Hands down, Rabindranath Tagore's characters; Nandini, for instance. Also Muna of "Kothao Keu Nei" and other central roles in Humayun Ahmed's plays.

**TDS:** How do you select your scripts?

**Shila:** I look for a compact story with realistic dialogues and most important of all, I look for a role, which reveals my talent. If the character is insignificant, I don't play the part.

**TDS:** Your real self?

**Shila:** I am a friendly person, and a bit talkative. My first breakthrough was in the serial "Bandhan." In that serial I portrayed a young girl who is a bit naive and impractical. I did enjoy the persona for a long time, but now I want to change the image. I want to play varied roles.

## Mahakal Natya Sampraday Theatre Festival '09

## Komolabotir Pala: Myth of a princess and her pool

### MAINUL HASSAN

'Komola Shundori' and her eponymous *dighi* (large pool) are familiar to folklore enthusiasts in Bangladesh.

On July 27, Jibon Sanket Natya Goshthi (from Habiganj), staged "Komolabotir Pala" at the ongoing Mahakal Natya Sampraday Theatre Festival '09.

Through songs and narratives, performers (Meer Abdul Barek and Zinat Jahan) recounted the tragic story of Princess Komolaboti at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The *pala*, set in Baniyachong (in the Habiganj area), took the audience on a journey -- in the time of gods and supernatural beings, kings and rituals, prophecies and curses.

"In Baniyachong,

Habiganj, there is a large pool referred to by the locals as 'Komolaranir Sagar-dighi.' The myth tries to explain how the pool came to existence," said Aniruddho Kumar Dhor, director of the *pala*. The story was adapted by Ruma Modak.

Under King Padmanabh's (played by Zahirul Islam) wise rule, Baniyachong earned a reputation. Its people were affluent and content. The only discontent being that the land had no queen. Unbeknown to many, the king had taken a secret oath to remain a bachelor, as he feared that a wife might distance him from his royal duties.

One day, while at *mrigaya* (hunt), the king gets lost in the woods. Desperately seeking his way out, he crosses the border to another kingdom, ruled by Gunraj. King Gunraj has a beautiful sister, Princess Komola (played by Naznin Sultana).

Padmanabh falls for Komola at first sight. He marries her and brings her to Baniyachong. Now that the king has a queen, everyone celebrates, except for Padmanabh's sister, Keuka (played by Nusrat Jahan). Keuka nurtures dreams of ruling the kingdom one day and Komola appears as a thorn that could burst her bubble. Keuka starts plotting against Komola.

Meanwhile King of the gods, Indra (played by Sumon Chakrabarti), decides to test Padmanabh's conscience. A severe drought devastates the kingdom. People start dying of thirst and at one point start to migrate in hundreds. The king digs six huge pools to ease the water crisis but none manages to store water. Seeing that the king has not forgotten his subjects, Indra is appeased and instructs Padmanabh to summon



PHOTO: MUMIT M

### "Komolabotir Pala" is based on a popular folk myth.

Gondab Ali (played by Shipon Khan), the chief digger of the state, to dig another pool. But this one will certainly have water.

Sensing an opportunity, Keuka tells Gondab Ali to dig the pool in the name of the queen. According to a prophecy, the pool would not have any water as long as the person it's named after does not sacrifice himself/herself.

After the pool is completed, Komola becomes aware of this prophecy.

Unable to withstand the suffering of her subjects, Komola steps into the pool; as she goes under, water starts to rise. Komola disappears in the pool forever.

Legends add that on every full-moon night, Komola used to come ashore to see her child, and the king tried in vain to stop her every time from going back to the water.

"Komolabotir Pala" is the 26th production of Jibon Sanket Natya Goshthi. This was the 18th staging of the *pala*.

## "Bindu Theke Britto" on Channel i

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

New drama serial "Bindu Theke Britto" goes on air on Channel i tonight at 9:35 pm. Written by Dilip Chakrabarty, the serial is being directed by Monirul Islam.

The serial revolves around the life of an unsuccessful bohemian who is unemployed and has no accomplishment to his name. He spends his days doing nothing, and sometimes gazing at the high-rises around his home. The serial follows his mundane life and people surrounding him.

The cast includes Afzal Hossain, Anisur Rahman Milon, Bijori Barkatullah, Shajol, Sweety and others. Tonight's episode will feature behind-the-scenes footage from the serial: the making of "Bindu Theke Britto." The serial will be aired every Wednesday and Thursday at 9:35 pm.



Afzal Hossain in a scene from the serial.

## Deepika Padukone: From calendar model to Bollywood big-time

She's only 23, but Deepika Padukone is already living a life millions would envy.

The model-turned-actress was spotted in a music video and then cast in one of the biggest grossing films in Bollywood history. She still only has three movies under her belt, but star status has already been bestowed upon her.

With no family connections to the film industry and not being from Mumbai, Padukone travelled a route to movie stardom millions could only dream of.

After deciding to become a model at the age of 16, she was picked out of a music video by acclaimed director Farah Khan and cast in her next film opposite Shahrukh Khan. "Om Shanti Om" went on to become not only a hit in India, but also gained wider acclaim among western audiences.

"I completely didn't expect it. When I met Farah I thought she was joking. And at that point it seemed too good to be true. Shahrukh is someone who I've grown up watching, and I didn't think that I deserve being a part of such a huge film. It's only later, when I met Shahrukh and when things actually started happening, when I realised that this is for real," she says.

Despite her meteoric rise to fame and work on some big budget films she believes she is learning the job of being an A-list Bollywood actress.

"I had great debut, a successful film, but after that...I would think it's quite difficult to choose the right film. You never know what's right and what's wrong," she says.

"Things for me changed quite overnight, actually. I remember a couple of months before the film release, not too many people knew me. In November 2007 when my film released and immediately after that I had to travel to New York, to Dubai and to London, and suddenly everyone on the streets started recognising me, especially the Indians. That's when I realised that things have



changed."

With the public attention has come the inevitable media spotlight on her private life. She says she never experienced the "casting couch" but is consistently romantically linked with other Bollywood stars, and there were rumours about a relationship with Indian cricketer MS Dhoni.

"As someone who didn't know how to deal with it, yes it was really difficult for me initially to read about myself or to read about things that are untrue. But I think slowly you start learning to deal with these things."

Padukone's father was a professional badminton player, and she played too as a teenager, travelling across the country to compete in tournaments. But by her late teens she decided she wanted to be a model and got the full support of her parents.

"I trained, I lost some weight. I then got a portfolio done. I sent it to Bombay to a couple of agencies and waited for a while. I think that period is really the most challenging. Because that's really the time that one can really go wrong. The

waiting period. You can really make some wrong decisions and go completely wrong," she says.

"I had the support of my family. I didn't get carried away. I think I was patient enough to wait for the right assignment to come my way."

As a model she appeared in commercials and music videos. Since her move into the movie business more commercial endorsements have come her way, but in an industry notorious for its high turnover of starlets she is aware that for actresses there is often a limited shelf-life.

"For me my life now is my work. But I know that at some point I will have to have a life beyond my work. And I know that today there's me, tomorrow there will be someone else. Maybe I'll be here for 5 years, maybe I'll be here for many, many years."

"I'm definitely going to work hard and make sure that I can be here for as long as I can, but I'll also make sure that people don't get bored of me. And...yes, let's see how it goes."

Source: Internet

## Madonna's love letters, tapes in NY auction

### AP, New York

Madonna's love letters and erotic answering machine messages to an ex-boyfriend are up for sale in New York City.

The Material Girl's material is among nearly 500 personal celebrity items including Jimi Hendrix's \$1 performance contract and Muhammad Ali's training robe being offered in an online auction ending August 5.

The Gotta Have It! auction house says the 1965 contract between Hendrix and PFX Enterprises is believed to be his first.

Ali trained in the terry cloth robe for his third fight against Ken Norton in 1976 at Yankee Stadium. Ali won.

Madonna faxed love letters to her then-boyfriend Jim Albright and left messages on his answering machine in the early 1990s. The messages are on two micro-cassette tapes estimated to sell for up to \$40,000.

The items belong to 150 consignors including collectors.

