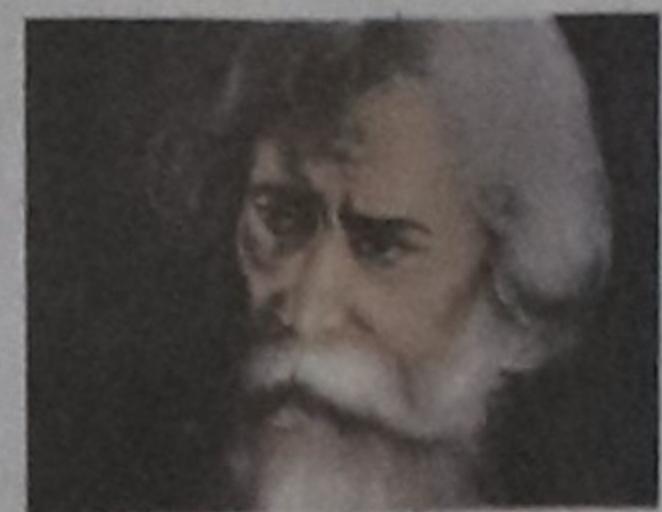


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Tagore Death Anniversary
Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangha
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library
Date: August 7
Time: 8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Misako Kobayashi (Japan)
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: August 1-6
Time: 2-8pm



Group Photography Exhibition
Title: Perspectives
Organiser: Palashala
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhaka
Date: August 7-12
Time: 3-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Orchestra
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: August 2-10
Time: 10am-7pm



What turns a Good Samaritan into a villain

Centre for Asian Theatre stages Abdullah Al-Mamun's "Shenapati"

JAMIL MAHMUD

As a playwright, Abdullah Al-Mamun looked at society as a whole entity, where the poor, middle and upper class occasionally confront one another but nevertheless coexist. In his plays, Mamun beautifully outlined the issues of middle class with compassion, and studied the causes that haunt them everyday. His "Shenapati" is one such effort. The protagonist is an educated, multi-faceted individual from a middle class background.

Centre for Asian (CAT) Theatre staged the play at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on August 3.

The protagonist, Talukdar, emerges in the opening act like the genie of a magic lamp -- always ready to implement



Mamun's play "Shenapati" traces a flawed social system that often wrongs middle class existence.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

every wish of his master. Talukdar impresses his master with his fast-talking. Gradually, through his confessions, it is revealed that Talukdar desperately wants revenge, in any way possible.

But Talukdar used to be a

Good Samaritan. With a humble background, all Talukdar ever desired was a content existence in the society with his wife. But the so-called 'system' played him like a fool, and Talukdar found himself figuring nowhere in the society.

A scorned Talukdar plans to take revenge on the society, which made him feel small and insignificant, through destroying his master. He gradually takes over all his master's possessions.

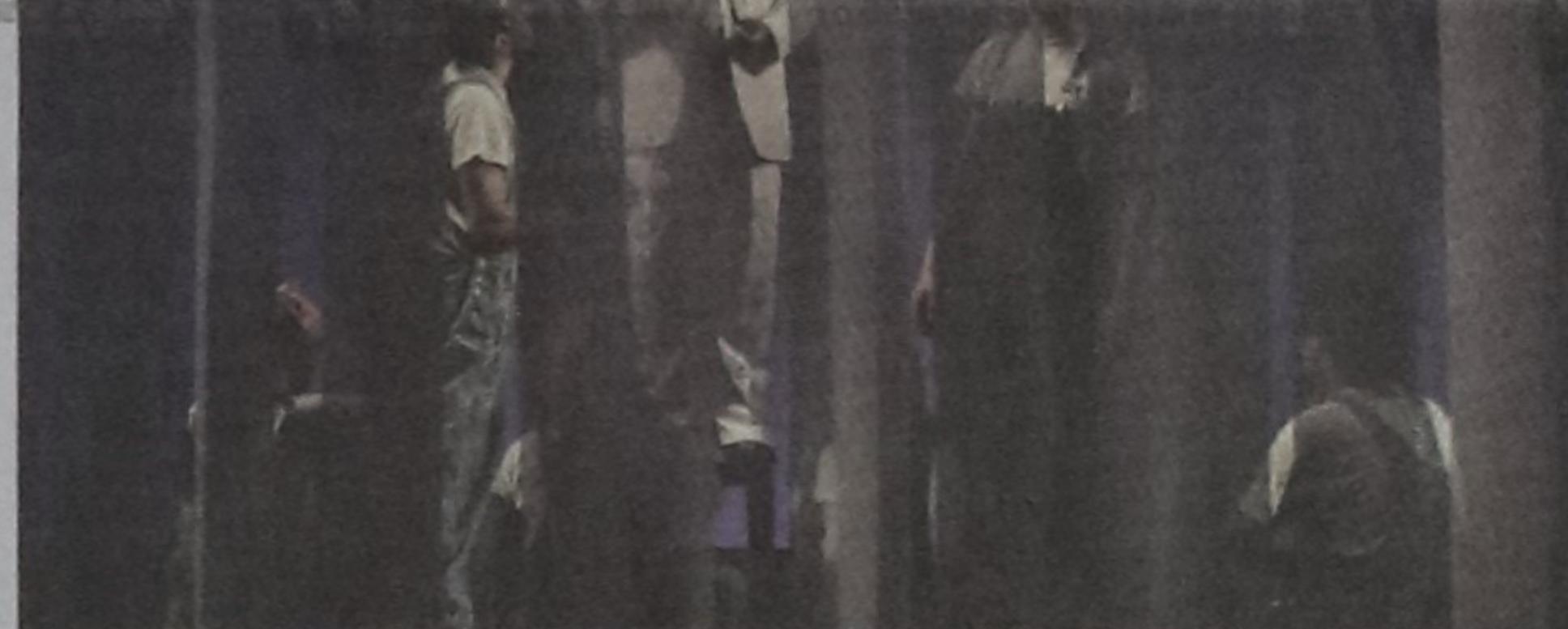
Talukdar instigates the workers at his master's industry, and causes an uprising. A murder ensues. However, Talukdar's wife, Merry, who works for a welfare organisation for women, reveals her husband's conspiracy. When the news breaks out and everyone is on the hunt for Talukdar, he vanishes. But

before leaving, Talukdar vows to emerge again with a new destructive plan.

"Shenapati" was planned and directed by Ahsan Reza Khan Tushar, Abul Kalam Azad (Shetu) and Mithu Burman played the roles of Talukdar and Master respectively. Among others, Rahmatullah Basu, Marzina Munia and Shahadat Hoque played central roles. Kamaluddin Nilu was the advisory director of the play.

The music, which featured several recorded tracks including a Pink Floyd number "Money," was conceptualised by Atanu Tias, Biplob Sarkar and Maruf Hasan Emon. Md. Rafeeq was the choreographer.

The play premiered recently at the festival -- organised by Theatre -- celebrating Abdullah Al-Mamun's birth anniversary.



A scene from the play.

Up close with Abida Sultana

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Renowned singer Abida Sultana, aka Shikha to her near and dear ones, can sing in multiple languages and has performed at several major international events. Recently she took some time off from her busy schedule to have a chat with The Daily Star. Excerpts from the interview:

The Daily Star (TDS): What is singing to you?

Abida: Singing is my life. Just as we cannot articulate in words what breathing is to us, I cannot express adequately what singing means to me.

TDS: Would you trade your voice for anything?

Abida: I cannot think of giving up my voice for anything. But, hypothetically, if I was required to give up my voice to save my family, I would. Family comes first.

TDS: What do you like to do on rainy days?

Abida: I love rain. People usually listen to music on rainy days but I like to listen to the sound of rain. If it is possible, I stay home and try to enjoy the music of rain.

TDS: A hilarious incident you would like to share with the readers...

Abida: This happened during one of my recordings in Kolkata. The session was interrupted several times. I had put on some make-up, like we often have to, which happened to attract flies. At one point, the director instructed one of his assis-



my favourite time of the year. If I could have it my way, I would want it to rain throughout the year, 365 days.

TDS: Your favourite food?

Abida: I like all kinds of salads, fish and chips, ice cream and last but not the least, Hajar Biryani.

TDS: Your favourite singers?

Abida: There are quite a few supremely talented singers in our part of the world. Manna Dey, Mehedi Hassan and Asha Bhosle happen to be some of my favourites.

TDS: Obsession...?

Abida: I am absolutely crazy about perfumes.

TDS: Where do you see yourself ten years from now?

Abida: I'm not sure if I'll be singing ten years from now, but I would definitely want to retain the honour, respect and love I have earned from my fans throughout my singing career. I have a simple commitment to myself -- I'll stop singing the day I realise I'm not able to sing anymore.

TDS: Any message for music lovers?

Abida: Do not support music piracy. In fact, "piracy" is a rather decent word for such an act. I would rather use the term "stealing."

TDS: What is your favourite colour and season?

Abida: My favourite colours are maroon and green. And as you might have guessed by now, monsoon is

on me that the lad was merely trying to save me from flies.

TDS: What is your favourite colour and season?

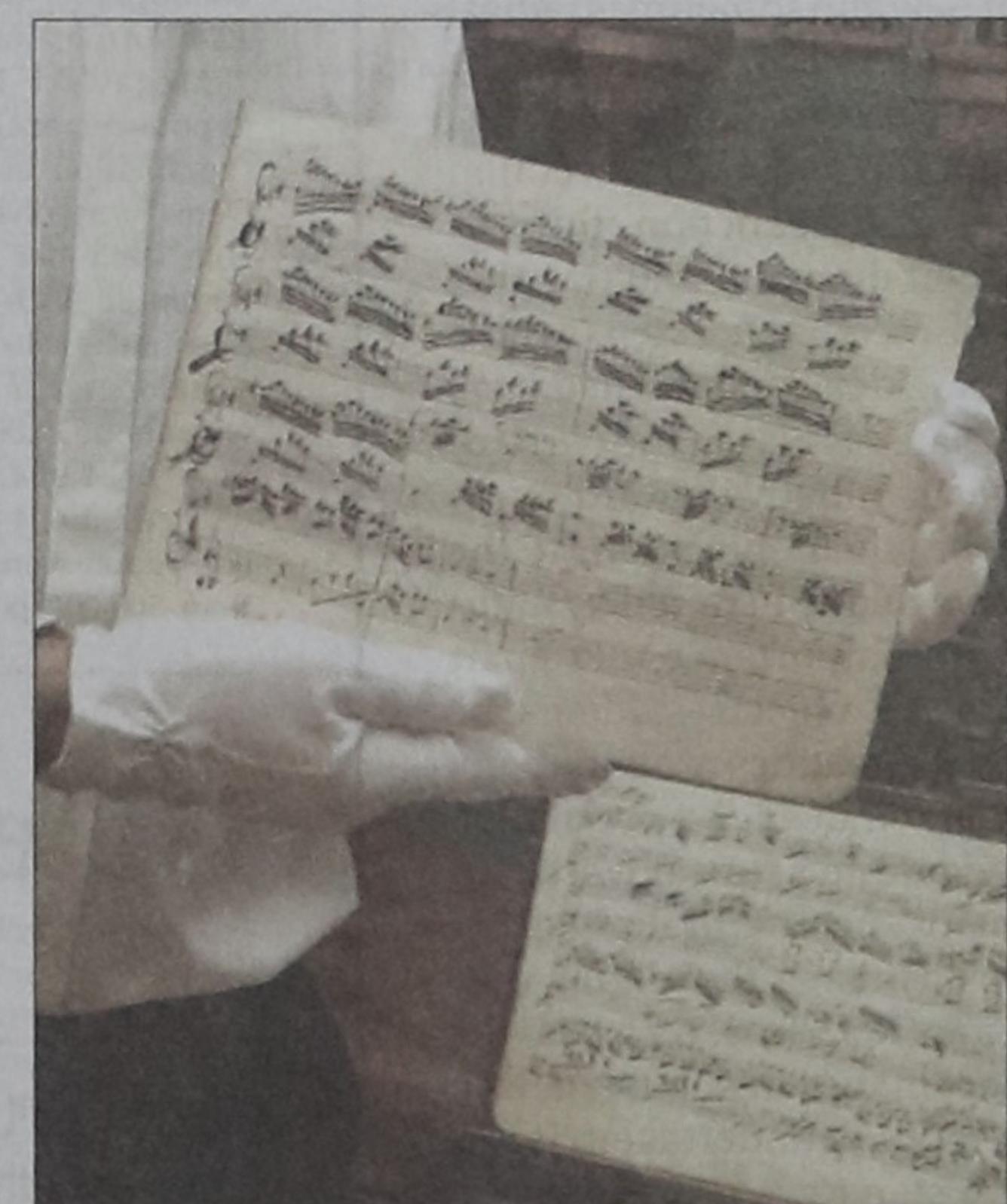
Abida: My favourite colours are maroon and green. And as you might have guessed by now, monsoon is

Two works attributed to young Mozart

Since the 1760s the fragmentary works sat scrawled at the back of a music book used by Mozart's sister to study keyboard. They were in the hand of their father, Leopold, but no composer's name was attached.

The International Mozarteum Foundation in Salzburg now says the two pieces were probably composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart himself, as a young boy.

The music consists of 35 measures of a piano prelude and the solo part, 75 measures long, of a complete movement of a keyboard concerto, said Ulrich Leisinger, director of the Mozarteum's research department, who is credited with the discovery. The results were announced at a news conference on Sunday in Salzburg. Florian Birsak, an Austrian keyboard player, performed the two pieces at a Mozart residence on Mozart's



The scores attributed to Mozart, in his father's handwriting.

own fortepiano.

Leisinger said in an interview that the pieces were probably composed in 1763 or 1764, when Mozart was 7 or 8. If truly by him, they would serve as an important link between his simple earliest compositions and his first major works, Leisinger added.

Leopold used the music notebook to give Nannerl, as his daughter Maria Anna was called, keyboard lessons. It contains some 60 pieces, many by contemporary composers and 18 recognised as by Mozart. Most of those are in Leopold's handwriting, composed before Wolfgang had a firm grasp of writing out music, Leisinger said. After Mozart's death, Nannerl ripped out pages with his handwriting and gave them away to friends and Mozart admirers.

Source: Internet

Ridley Scott to direct Alien prequel

Face-huggers, a killer creature with way too many teeth and, of course, the chest-bursting scene.

Ridley Scott unleashed a monster that's been scaring fans for 30 years when he directed the sci-fi classic "Alien" in 1979.

The film spawned three sequels and a couple of "Alien vs. Predator" movies.

Now Scott has signed up to direct a prequel to "Alien," Variety reports.

The original, starring Sigourney Weaver and Tom Skerritt, followed the crew of the commercial space ship

Nostromo as it responds to a beacon from a mysterious planet and finds itself becoming prey to a parasitic monster.

In the film's most infamous scene, John Hurt's character Kane "gives birth" to the creature.

No word yet on the plot of the prequel, but fans are speculating whether the movie would focus on the crashed alien spaceship and the giant skeletonised "space jockey" the

Nostromo crew encounters on the planet.

Fans are also wondering whether Weaver would make an appearance in the new film, but the actress says it's unlikely she could reprise her role as Ripley.

"I don't see how Ripley could be part of a prequel," Weaver told MTV news, adding that she's looking forward to the new film.

"I'm glad Ridley's connected to it because I know it will be classy," she said.

Source: CNN