

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Calligraphy Exhibition
Title: Calligraphy on Quranic Cosmology
Calligrapher: Syed Zulfiqar Zahoor
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15/A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: August 20-26
Time: 10am-6pm



Photo Exhibition
Title: Liberation War of 1971
Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1
Date: August 20-25
Time: 10am-6pm



Children's Art Exhibition
Title: Bangladesh Through the Children's Eyes
Organiser: Nitya Upahar
Venue: Gallery Nitya Upahar, Aziz Co-operative Market, Shahbagh
Date: August 18-24
Time: 10am-8pm



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



Selim Al Deen birth anniversary celebration

Oggatobash: A day in the life of a lonely urbanite

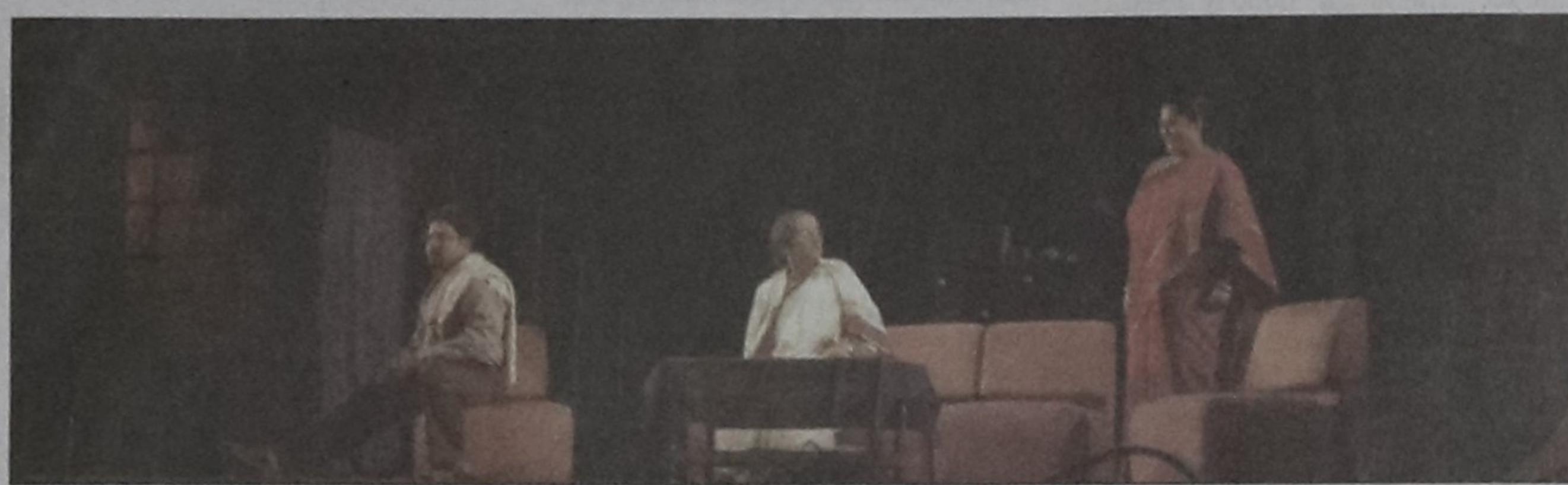


PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Actors of Nandikar in a scene from "Oggatobash."

JAMIL MAHMUD

Kolkata based theatre troupe Nandikar staged its latest production "Oggatobash" at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on the forth day (August 20) of Selim Al Deen birth anniversary celebration. The play is an adaptation of a Sunil Gangopadhyay story and was directed by Sumanto Gangopadhyay.

"Oggatobash" is an account of contemporary

urban lifestyle. The play sheds light on the mundane, routine life of the inhabitants of Kolkata that drives many into a melancholic and isolated world. The pursuit of happiness is seemingly taking its toll on city life.

Not so long ago, in the 1960s, people of Kolkata were more affable and joint-families were yet to become extinct. People seemed to live apart from their husband's family to avoid unpleasant familial circumstances. She and her husband, Shoumik, start a new life in a new home.

But the constant pressures of urbanisation have been

erasing communal sensibilities from the human mind. Concern for near and dear ones has become sort of time pass.

As the director, Sumanto Gangopadhyay aptly highlights above facts throughout the play. Payel, the protagonist, deliberately chooses to live apart from her husband's family to avoid unpleasant familial circumstances. She and her husband, Shoumik, start a new life in a new home.

Corporate executive

Shoumik is busy with his professional life, which leaves Payel in utter loneliness. One day, a stranger, Anuradha Banerjee, knocks on Payel's door. Payel comes to know that the elderly Anuradha has amnesia, and often cannot remember her address and identity.

Initially Payel shows reluctance to welcome Anuradha into her home. However, through an exciting conversation with Anuradha, a lonely Payel seems to have the best day in recent times. The play

also features some multi-media clippings towards the end.

Sohini Sengupta played the role of Payel. Swatilekha Sengupta, Sumanta Gangopadhyay, Rudraprasad Sengupta, Swajani Srijan Mukerjee and Sumona Mukhopadhyay played other roles.

As Payel, a multi-dimensional character, Sohini is worthy of praise. Swatilekha Sengupta as Anuradha was another performer to be noted.

Shoumik and Piyali designed the set, which featured home appliances and furniture -- from dining table to telephone set -- that indicated that the family could be categorised as upper-middle class. Background music included Rabindra Sangeet -- planned by Swatilekha.

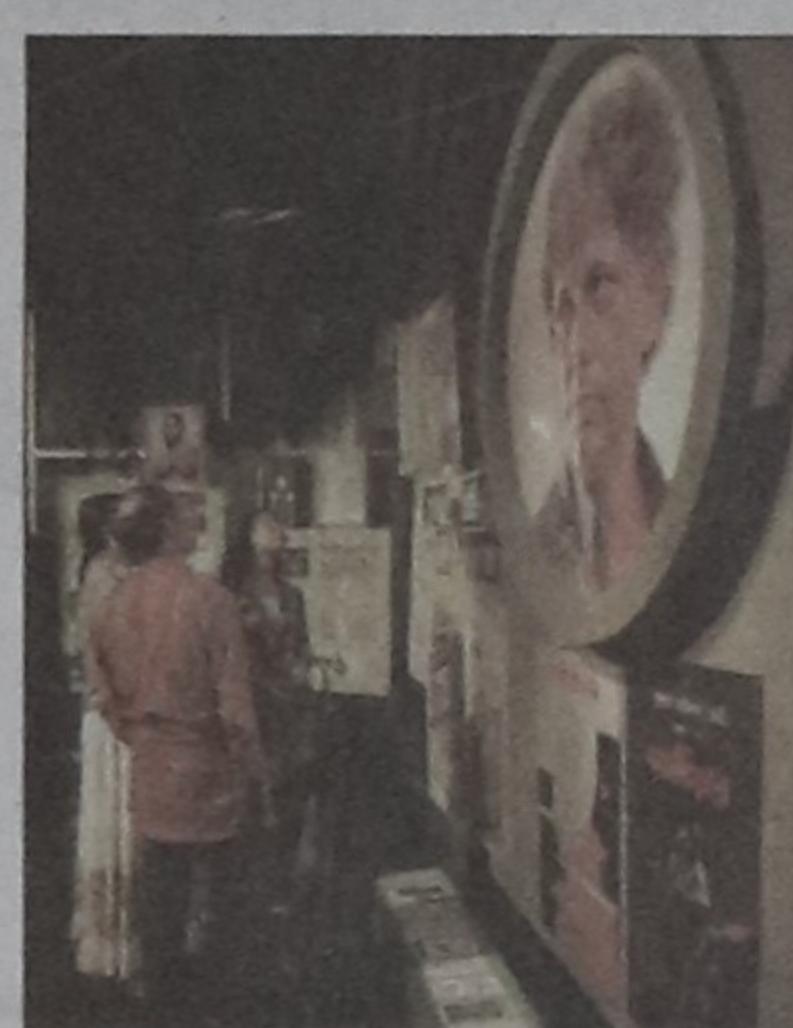
The play was premiered on September 11, 2008 at Charukala Academy, Kolkata. At the National Theatre Hall, the troupe staged two shows in a row.

Exhibition featuring posters, leaflets and photographs

The Selim Al Deen birth anniversary celebration also featured an exhibition of posters, souvenirs, leaflets and photographs of theatre activities at the lobby of National Theatre Hall. All items on display were from Babul Biswas' collection. The exhibition was an exclusive opportunity for theatre-goers to delve into the history of Bangladeshi theatre movement.

A collage, featuring indigenous theatre forms, highlighted artworks depicting different forms such as Raash-er Gaan, Krishna Leela, Geeta Gobinda, Gazi'r Gaan, Gambhira, Manasha Mangal, Manipuri Raash and Manshar Bhashan.

Many of the photographs at the



Visitors at the exhibition. PHOTO: MUMIT M.

exhibition featured on and off stage moments. A collage titled "Pakistan Era" featured photographs of plays and leaflets from that tumultuous era. A leaflet of a Comilla-based troupe, called Minerva Theatre, was noteworthy. According to the leaflet, the troupe staged two plays -- "Gayer Bodhu" (directed by SM Habibur Rahman) and Polli Kobi Jasimuddin's "Beder Meye" -- at the Comilla Shilpa-Mela Auditorium from January 9 to 12, in 1964.

Large photographs of legendary playwrights and theatre activists, including the father of European Theatre Gerasim Lebedev, legendary

Indian playwright Habib Tanvir, Shaheed Munier Chowdhury, S.M. Solaiman, Girish Chandra Ghosh, Utpal Dutta, Abdullah Al-Mamun and Selim Al Deen were special attractions.

The exhibition also featured numerous posters of acclaimed productions like Theatre's "Payer Awaj Pawa Jaye" and "Jamidar Darpan", Dhaka Theatre's "Kittankhola" and "Binodini"; Prachyanat's "A Man for All Seasons" and Centre for Asian Theatre's "Metamorphosis".

Some rare documents and official letters belonging to different troupes were also on display.

The exhibition ended yesterday.

Enforcing law, and looking sharp doing it

Police officers get grooming tips from Kaniz Almas

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Who says that the Bangladeshi Police force has no panache? Many are under this impression that the Bangladeshi law enforcement officers are not smart. It has come to the point that people would still want to believe this notion, even if the contrary is true in certain cases. Finally, Kaniz Almas, aesthetician and managing director of Persona and Md. Mazharul Hoque, principal of Rajshahi Police Academy, Sharda have stepped in to break and rebuild this image of our national heroes.

A total of 140 men and women who were training to be SP/ASP gathered recently at the Rajshahi Police Academy to take first hand tips from the renowned beautician Kaniz Almas. During a three-hour session, Almas gave instructions on skin care, attire, posture, etiquette and other aspects of grooming. There was a PowerPoint presentation and all the participants were given soft copies. Besides, posters on different outlooks and tips of grooming were put up at the gyms, waiting rooms and other venues for



Kaniz Almas grooms a policewoman during the session. PHOTO: MUMIT M.

social gathering, so that the trainees could refer to them whenever needed.

Being a policeman or policewoman is not a joke. It requires rigorous training and discipline to make these individuals tough and capable of ensuring the safety of the citizens. However, these trainings can also have a damaging effect on their health and appear-

ance. Working in unhygienic conditions is part of their everyday life. But Almas' fast and applicable methods will surely help them to stay neat and presentable.

"It's good to know that they are

feeling the need to be well-groomed.

They also have a life outside their

profession. They need to attend dinner

parties, and have to travel abroad occasionally. Not only that but a fresh look and state of mind are necessary while they are on duty as well," said Almas.

"We are friends of the people, and we want to appear that way," said one of the trainees.

"We corresponded with Kaniz Almas and her team, and the idea of this grooming session was focused on personality," said Principal of the academy, Mazharul Haque.

"We are training world class officers, world class leaders, and our academy aims at giving them the best in all. These individuals are from different backgrounds and our efforts are in making them more presentable in their spheres. In fact, personality development is a part of our curriculum, and this grooming session has enriched it. Choice of fabric, colour, what to wear and how to appear at formal occasions, et al or in men's cases which tie would go with the attire, and all other details are part of an ASP's mode of conduct. If (s)he is presentable, it boosts his/her confidence and makes him/her more efficient."

Kumar Bishwajit (left) with the host of the show.

Norah Jones is sporting a new look and a new sound

Singer-songwriter Norah Jones will move away from her jazz roots on her fourth studio album.

Multi-Grammy Award winner Jones is set to unveil her first album in three years, and she has freshened up her look and her sound. The singer-songwriter has a shorter, highlighted hairdo and a still-untitled collection tentatively scheduled for release in November. The album was recorded in New York and Los Angeles with producer Jacque King, who has previously worked with Modest Mouse, Kings of Leon and Tom Waits.

Jones' new songs include collaborations with long-time cohort Jesse Harris, who wrote her breakthrough hit "Don't Know Why," as well as alt-rock darlings Ryan Adams and Will Sheff.

She will be joined by a new team of musicians, including respected veterans such as drummer Joey Waronker and guitarist Marc Ribot.

Jones herself "got to play a lot of electric guitar" during sessions, in addition to piano and keyboards.

"I thought this record was a good opportu-

nity to try some new sounds and play with some new people," Jones says. "I wanted it to sound a little rougher around the edges."

Source: USA Today



Star Arts & Entertainment

