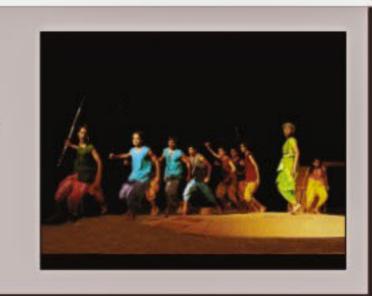


Theatre Play: Khona Troupe: Battala Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: May 17 Time: 7pm

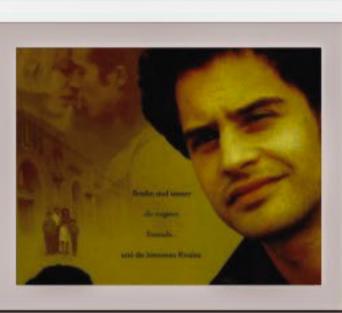


French Drama **Festival** Organiser: Alliance Française de Dhaka and Natukay Theatre Group Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Date: May 15-21

Time: 5pm onward



Fatih Akin Retrospective Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society Venue: Auditorium, Goethe Institut, H-10, R-9 Dhanmondi **Date:** May 16-17 Time: 3.30pm onwards



Group Art Exhibition Title: Rooted Creativity-2 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts. R-16, H-275/F Dhanmondi Date: May 18-29 Time: 12 pm-8 pm



Mini screen

French Drama Festival begins at Shilpakala

Camoletti's "Don't Dress for Dinner" staged on opening day



Dignitaries at festival opening.



PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

JAMIL MAHMUD

The weeklong 3rd International French Drama Festival began at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on May 15. Jointly organised by

A scene from "Thakur Ghorey Ke Re".

Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Natukey Theatre Group and Fame School of Dance and adaptations of seven renowned French plays by different local troupes. On the opening day Natukay and Shobdo Natyacharcha

Kendra jointly staged "Thakur Ghorey Ke Re", an adaptation of the Marc Drama, the festival features Camoletti comedy "Don't Dress for Dinner".

> National Professor Kabir Chowdhury inaugurated the festival, where Deputy Speaker of Parliament Colo

nel (Retd) Shawkat Ali was renovated French farmhouse the chief guest.

Embassy; ITI Worldwide president Ramendu Majumdar and chairman of City Bank Aziz Al Kaiser were the special guests. Jacques Bounin, deputy director of Alliance Française de Dhaka and convener of the festival presided over the inaugural.

Professor Kabir Chowdhury in his remarks said that in Bangladesh French drama and literature are preferred especially in different universities and colleges. He also evaluated his own translations of French writings. "The literary works and dramas that translated do not satisfy me because they are from English. I believe if they were from French language they would be more in-depth,' said Professor Chowdhury.

In his comments, Ramendu Majumdar appreciated the initiative and urged both the French authorities and Bangladeshi theatre activists to find ways of working on contemporary French plays. He said, "French playwrights such as Molieré, Jean Paul Sartre, Samuel Beckett and Eugene Ionesco are well known to Bangladeshi theatre lovers. But little do we know about contemporary French playwrights such as Yasmina Reza. It would be nice if the French authorities make it possible for Bangladeshis to get better acquainted with contemporary French plays."

After the inaugural, the play "Thakur Ghorey Ke Re" was staged. The play is set in a

about a two-hour drive from Patrick Branco, Charge Paris. Bernard hopes to pack d'Affaires at the French off his wife, Jacqueline, to her mother's place for the weekend so that he can have a romantic tryst with his mistress, Suzanne. As an alibi, Bernard has hired a cook Suzette and invited his friend Robert to dinner. But things go awry for Bernard, when Jacqueline learns about the arrival of Robert. As Robert and Jacqueline talk on the phone, it becomes obvious that they are having an affair.

While Bernard and Jacqueline are out shopping for groceries, Suzy arrives. She is the caterer, not the mistress. Robert doesn't realize it and introduces Suzette as his girlfriend when Bernard and Jacqueline return. Bernard is angry because of the mix-up, and Jacqueline feels betrayed because she thought she was Robert's only mistress.

Al Nomaan has designed, translated and directed the

Today, Theatre for Cancer Foundation will stage "Biye Birambona", an adaptation of Moliere's play "The Forced Marriage". The weeklong festival will also see adaptations of Sartre's play "The Wall", Beckett's "End Game" and "All that Fall", Helene Cixous' "Drums on the Dam" and Ionesco's "The Rhinoceros". Theatre (Bailey Road), Prachyanat, Bibartan Theatre (Jessore) and Fame School of Drama (Chittagong) will stage the

City Bank and American Express are the sponsors of the festival.

Who will be the biggest fan of Runa Laila?



Swooning in dance delight?

A CORRESPONDENT

Runa Laila is one of the celebrities featured on an entertainment programme for Zee TV Bangla, titled Ke Hobe Biggest Fan (Who will be the biggest fan) hosted by the noted Bollywood director, Anuraag Basu (Murder, Gangster, Metro and soon to be released Kites). The show starring Runa Laila will be telecast soon, said the diva.

Ke Hobe Biggest Fan is a reality show on Zee Bangla that shows the life-journey of a celebrity. In each of the episodes, one popular celebrity reveals about his family, personal life,

education, childhood, first love, hobbies, past time and his aspirations.

other celebrity shows is the participation of The anchor of the show, Anurag Basu, asks questions to the fans about the celebrity. The

However, what sets the show apart from

fan who answers all the questions accurately is crowned as the 'Biggest fan' of the Star from West Bengal. The questions and answers are divided into

five segments - Screen Test, Action, Flash Back, Censor and Climax. Ke Hobe Biggest Fan is telecast on Zee Bangla

every Thursday to Saturday at 9.30 pm.

Hard work pays off

Leena Taposhi receives PhD on Nazrul

A CORRESPONDENT

Nazrul singer Leena Taposhi Khan recently completed her PhD on "Use of Ragas in Nazrul Songs", under the supervision of Nazrul exponent Professor Rafigul Islam. It took her threeand- a- half years to come by her degree. Earlier she had completed her MPhil on "Variations of Nazrul Songs and their Characteristics" from Dhaka University.

Leena said, "Nazrul is a part and parcel of our national identity as well as an essential part of our tradition. Most Nazrul songs are ragabased and each raga has a distinct feature."

Leena was encouraged to be a singer by her father MA Khan, a music enthusiast. She began to train in music in 1978. After graduating from the Music College in Dhaka, she went to Vishwabharati University on a scholarship to study classical music from 1981 to 1988.

During her stay in Kolkata, she also trained in Nazrul Sangeet under Dhiren Mitra. Noted Nazrul singers Sohrab Hossain and Khaled Hossain were her mentors in Dhaka.

Leena currently works as teacher in the

Amaboshya"

A CORRESPONDENT

Mahfuz-Ishita on "Chand Phul



Santo Mariam University of Creative Technology. She is also the deputy director of the same institute. She has six albums to her credit till now.

vocalists on a remake of 3 Lions for the World Cup.

Released on Monday, the song features an operatic introduction and has been produced by Trevor Horn.

would be no official England song for the tournament. It is the first time since 1966 that there has been no song

The official song for the World Cup in South Africa is

performed by Freshlyground.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Pop star Williams said: "I've always been approached to write football songs but have always declined as I thought 3 Lions could never be beaten, so I am really happy to be part of this record."

Producer Horn, who has replaced the terrace chants at the start of the 1996

original with an operatic opening, said the remake "had to be done".

"I am either the brave one or the foolish one who said I

tournament and topped the charts. It returned to the top spot two years later.

features football commentator John Motson. release, including those to Gary Lineker and 1966 World

Cup heroes Bobby Moore and Sir Bobby Charlton.

Source: BBC

Robbie Williams singing on World Cup song

Robbie Williams and Russell Brand have been unveiled as

The pair share singing duties on the track, which has been revived by original creators David Baddiel, Frank Skinner and The Lightning Seeds.

The Football Association announced in January there

to mark the campaign, leading to various unofficial anthems.

Time For Africa,

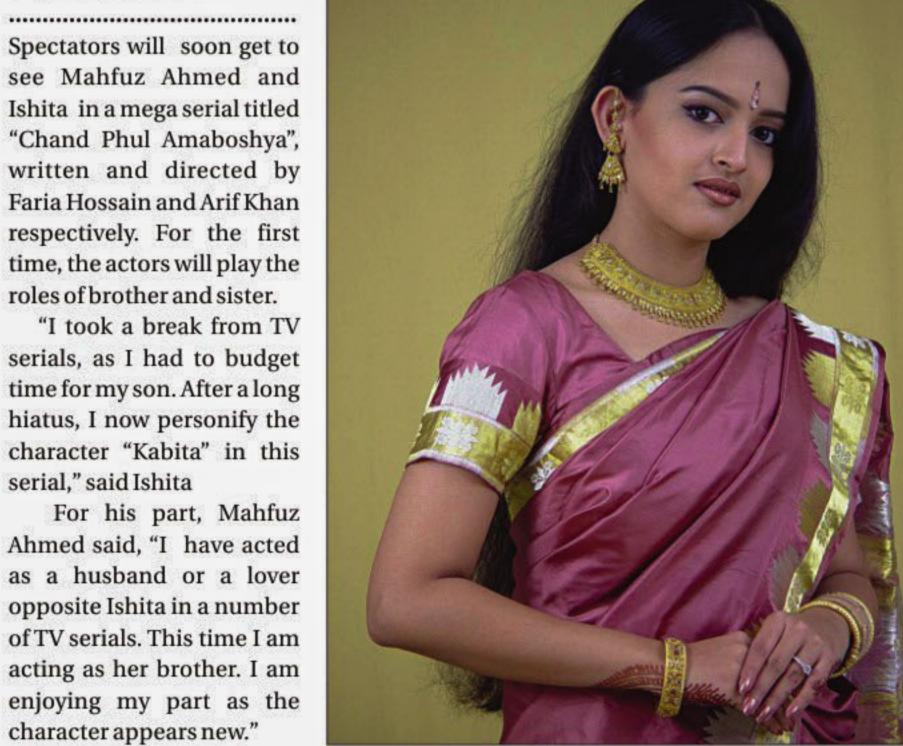
Shakira and

will have a go - I did it for England," he added. 3 Lions was first released as the anthem for the Euro 96

The song, performed under the name The Squad, also It also returns to the lyrical references of the original

roles of brother and sister. "I took a break from TV serials, as I had to budget time for my son. After a long hiatus, I now personify the character "Kabita" in this

serial," said Ishita For his part, Mahfuz Ahmed said, "I have acted as a husband or a lover opposite Ishita in a number of TV serials. This time I am acting as her brother. I am enjoying my part as the character appears new."





Theatre troupe Prachyanat staged its production "Punarjanmo" at Experimental Theatre Hall,

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on May 15. A deconstruction of Henrik Ibsen's "When We

Dead Awaken", the play is directed by Azad Abul Kalam. The cast includes Sanjeeda Preety,

Ritu-e-Sattar, Topon Majumder and others. The play has been adapted by Shahidul Mamun.

Rahul Anand is the music director, while M Shaiful Islam is the set and light designer.

Dr. Sanjida Khatun (3rd- left) seen with guests at the launching ceremony of "Shubhu Kormo Pathey", the latest album of Tagore songs by Onamika Tripura (4th-left), at Chhayanaut Shangskriti Bhaban on May 15. The album includes 12 songs. Six Tagore numbers "Shubhokormo Pathey", "Kotobaar Bhebechhinu", "Sheidin Dujoney", "Aj Joyotsnaraatey", "Hey Khoniker Otithi" and Ei Kathati Money Rekho" are recorded in Kak-Barak -- the dialect of the Tripura community. The album has been launched under the banner of Laser Vision.