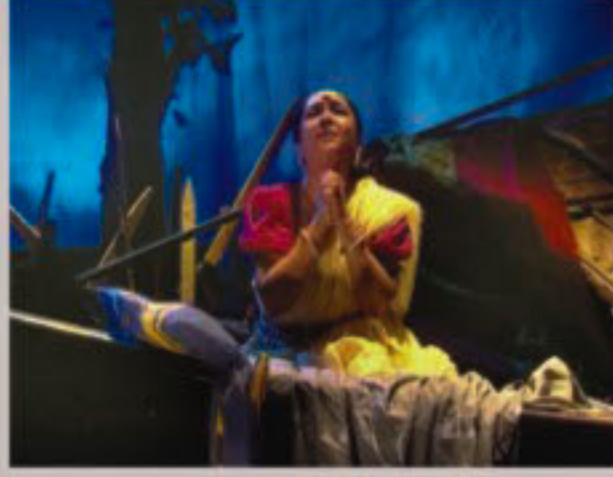


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation
Venue: National Theatre Hall and Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: July 30-August 03
Time: 7pm
Today: "Binodini" (Dhaka Theatre)



Design Contest & Exhibition

Title: Conqueror CI Design Contest 2010 & Hiroimi Inayoshi Exhibition
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275/F, Dhanmondi
Date: July 30-Aug 3
Time: 12pm-8pm



Theatre

Play: Tringsho Shatabdi
Troupe: Swapnadal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: August 06
Time: 7pm



Bangla Film Festival

Organiser: Weekly Mukhomukhi
Venue: Zahir Raihan Colour Lab Auditorium, BFDC
Date: Aug 1-8
Time: 5:30 pm



Catching up with actor-director Shahiduzzaman Selim



ues to act in several TV serials, as well as multiple Eid-special productions. One of the ongoing serials featuring Selim is "Lilaboti," based on a Humayun Ahmed story and directed by Arun Chowdhury. In the serial, Selim's role, Siddikur Rahman, an influential chief of a village, is gaining popularity. The serial is aired on ATN Bangla. The character he portrays comes as a refreshing experience after a long time, Selim said, adding that three months of break to prepare for the role paid off.

Asked about his directorial works, Selim confessed that he has not received good scripts of late, which is disappointing. "Cornett," a drama serial directed by Selim, was aired on Desh TV. Among other plays directed by him are "Easy Marriage Media Limited" and "Jojon Jojon Durey" for ATN Bangla.

Film enthusiasts will also get to see Selim on the big screen. The actor plays Chunilal in Chashi Nazrul Islam's remake of "Debdas." The movie awaits to be released. Selim said that he has tried his best to do justice to the role made famous by legendary actors, and termed it as a big achievement for himself. Expressing his interest in films of similar calibre, the modest actor-director however left it up to viewers to evaluate his performance when the movie is released.

One of the ongoing serials featuring Selim is "Lilaboti," based on a Humayun Ahmed story and directed by Arun Chowdhury.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Viewers will have an opportunity to assess actor Shahiduzzaman Selim's skills behind the camera this Eid. The Eid-special TV play

"Jhamela Nonstop" will feature Selim in a cameo as well. The protagonists of "Jhamela Nonstop" are Jitu Ahsan and Sanjida Priti. The play has been written by Maruf Rahman and it has not been decided yet which TV channel

will air it. When asked about the plot of the play, Selim said that though the storyline does not introduce anything dynamic, the viewers should most likely enjoy it. Besides trying his hand at direction, the artiste contin-

"I am incomplete without Mohammad Rafi"

-- Shammi Kapoor



The total package: Shammi Kapoor's (left) face and Mohammad Rafi's voice.

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The late singer Mohammad Rafi lent his voice to songs sung by many Bollywood stars but it is veteran Shammi Kapoor who has come forward to acknowledge that he as an actor would have been incomplete without Rafi.

Old timers would recall that Shammi Kapoor lent his lips to some of the superhit songs like "Chahey Koi Mujhe Jungle Kahe" sung by Rafi and the actor chose the legendary singer's 30th death anniversary to express his gratitude to him.

"I am incomplete without Mohammad Rafi. I used to often go for the recording of my songs, which were

sung by Rafi, only because I used to like telling him how I would perform on this song on screen so that he can sing it that way. Even he liked my involvement," Shammi told reporters at the launch of Mohammad Rafi Music Academy at a hotel in Mumbai last Saturday. Rafi died on July 31, 1980 of a heart attack.

"When I got to know about his demise, I was in tears. The person who actually came to me to give the news said 'Shammiji, you have lost your voice'," he added.

Music composers Pyarelal (of the famed duo Laxmikant-Pyarelal), Kalyanji (of Kalyanji-Anandji duo), Ravinder Jain, Bappi Lahiri; singers Udit Narayan, Adnan Sami; actors Dara Singh, Jackie Shroff and director Rakesh

Roshan were present on the occasion.

Actor Rishi Kapoor, who was also present, said, "from the time of Shammi and Shashi uncle, I also had the good fortune to have him sing for me in films 'Laila Majnu,' 'Amar Akbar Anthony' and 'Katilon Ke Katil'. I would like to quote [director] Manmohan Desai's line for Mohammad Rafi: 'If God had a voice, it would be Rafi's voice'."

Mohammad Rafi Music Academy has been set up by Rafi's son Shahid Rafi and his wife Firdaus Shahid Rafi. Representatives of families of legends of Indian music industry like composer Naushad, lyricist Majrooh Sultanpuri and singer Mahendra Kapoor are on the Academy's governing body.

"Notes on Man Capture": Where women count

KAVITA, New Delhi

An egalitarian, matrilineal society where women inherit the property of their mothers, are free to choose their husbands and make their own decisions, where there is a fair division of labour between men and women. No it's no distant utopia but a glimpse of life in the picturesque Garo Hills in the North Eastern Indian state of Meghalaya (literally, a place in the clouds).

In Nandini Bedi's film "Notes on Man Capture", the camera follows Ratmi, a young, single mother from a tiny village in the Garo Hills who wants a husband. In the Garo Hills, it is customary for men from one village to "capture" men from another for marriage alliances with their sisters, cousins and nieces during the season of cotton harvest.

Ratmi's male relatives set out to capture a man for her though she has children from two previous relationships.

They meet with success. As is the practice in the area, having accepted the marriage, the husband moves into Ratmi's village and has a share in her property. The couple live in harmony. While Ratmi picks the cotton and other agricultural produce, along with performing domestic chores, her husband sets up a home and weaves material for the hut that he will set up and weave baskets for crops that will be sold. The grandmother baby-sits the children.

The screening of the film was followed by discussion between the audience and Nandini whose camera took her to the Garo Hills first between 1999-2001 and



A scene from the film.

then in 2006. As she pointed out, while Ratmi stays in her mother's village, the groom is from her father's village. This is the custom in the area. "It is a kind of social security," said Nandini, "The kinship between the mother and father's family continues from generation to generation and they are used to sharing with each other."

Nandini went back to the little village in 2008 to show the film to its inhabitants. To her dismay, time had wrought havoc in the Garo way of life. Community lands had been privatised. Mono-culture had replaced the practice of the *jhum* or slash and burn cultivation. Food and cash crops such as cotton and ginger were rapidly giving way to areca

and cashew nuts.

Christian missionaries while setting up schools and hospitals in the area were also converting the animist Garos to Christianity. In the village where she had lived and shot the film, about half of the population had been converted to Christianity, she said. Schools propagated the tenets of Christianity and many of the Garo children had been packed off to missionary-run boarding schools.

The story is the same in many areas in Bangladesh, which have a high concentration of Garos. If the onslaught on their culture continues, the Garos in India and Bangladesh may lose their rich traditions forever. The clock is ticking.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Written by Saymon Zakaria and directed by Naznin Hasan Chumki, the monodrama "Sitar Agni-Parikkha" was staged on July 31 and August 1 at Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Naznin Hasan Chumki donned the multiple roles in the production. Shadhona, a centre for advancement of South Asian music and dance, staged the production.



Lady Gaga urges fans to protest immigration law at Arizona concert

Lady Gaga has often used her megafame to draw attention to hot-button issues such as gay rights and now Mother Monster is using her headline-grabbing powers to spotlight the ongoing immigration debate.

Artists such as Cypress Hill, Shakira and Rage Against the Machine have blasted Arizona's controversial SB 1070 bill, which critics say hinges on racial profiling and discrimination to curb the flow of illegal immigrants into

the state. According to The Arizona Republic, the pop supernova voiced her concerns about the law during her show last Saturday night.

"We have to be active. We have to actively protest," Gaga told the crowd of over 14,000. "I will not cancel my show. I will hold you, and we will hold each other, and we will protest this state," said Gaga, who had the slogan "Stop SB 1070" scrawled on her forearm.

Several stars have cancelled shows in Arizona in protest of SB 1070, however, Gaga said she decided to use her tour date to address the controversy and rally fans over the issue. "I got a call from some big rappers and big rockers. They said, 'We'd like you to boycott Arizona because of SB 1070,'" Gaga said. The singer side-stepped the boycott strategy: "I told them, 'Do you really think that us... pop stars are going to shut down the state?'"

Gaga also described a recent encounter with an Arizona boy who was personally affected by the law. "I met a boy today who is suffering... He told me his house was raided because of a parking ticket or something," Gaga recounted. "It's really (unfair), and it's really disgusting. I think it's important that people understand that it's a state of emergency for this place and this state," said Gaga, before dedicating her song "You and I" to the boy.

The singer also addressed the issue yesterday on her Twitter page: "Tonight we will continue to actively protest social and political injustices in Arizona," Gaga tweeted. "We will sing, we will stand up, + we will be heard."



PHOTO: STAR

Singer-composer Hyder Husyn performed recently at Ambika Maidan in Faridpur. The performance was part of a reception in honour of the newly elected FBCCI president A.K. Azad. The programme was arranged by Faridpur Chamber of Commerce Industry.