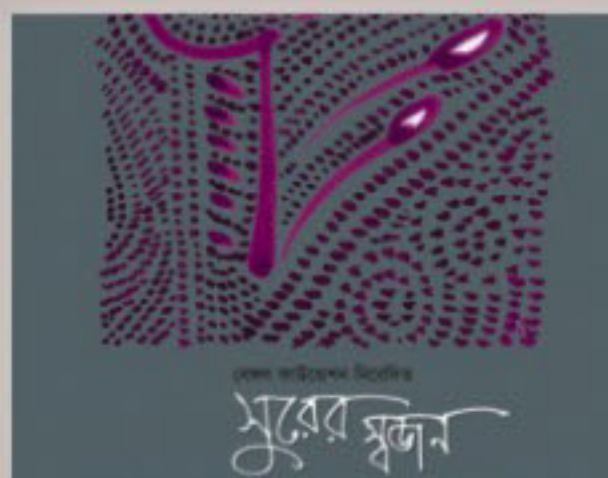


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Documentary and Book Launch

Documentary: Shurer Shajan
Book: Kontho Shilpi Nilufar Yasmin
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: August 20 at 4:30pm



Ethnic Jewellery Exhibition

Title: Aadi
Artist: Amman Rashid
Venue: Chondons, Rd 103, H 9, Gulshan-2
Date: August 20-21
Time: 10am-8pm



Film Screening

Film: "Angel-A"
Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Française De Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: August 20
Time: 6pm



Contemporary Norwegian Glass and Ceramics

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275F, Dhanmondi
Date: August 6-20
Time: 12pm-8pm



Celebrating an incomparable playwright

Special programme on Selim Al Deen's 61st birthday begins at Shilpakala



(From left) Golam Sarwar, Begumzadi Mehurunnisa, Ramendu Majumdar, Nasiruddin Yousuff and Liakat Ali Lucky at the discussion.

A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of playwright Selim Al Deen's 61st birth anniversary, Swapnadal and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) have jointly organised a four-day programme at Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA. Widow of Selim, Begumzadi Mehurunnisa, inaugurated the festival on August 18.

Theatre personality and ITI Worldwide President Ramendu Majumdar; Director General of BSA, Kamal Lohani; theatre activist Golam Sarwar; renowned theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuff; Dr. Afsar Ahmed, Professor of the Department of Drama and Dramatics of Jahangirnagar University; Liakat Ali Lucky, chairman, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Golam Sarwar said, "Selim initiated a unique trend in Bangladeshi theatre. His writings are mostly research based. After his demise, several international drama-

tists have shown interest in Bangladeshi plays and indigenous performing art



Dancers perform at the opening programme.

forms. His life and plays should be studied meticulously."

Liakat Ali Lucky said, "Selim developed a new style based on narratives of traditional indigenous performing art forms. His plays are deeply connected to our roots and he successfully popularised this trend. His plays have enriched our literature and theatre. He was an outstanding playwright of our time."

Ramendu Majumdar said, "Selim Al Deen's untimely demise created an irreparable void in our theatre. He is unparalleled in our cultural arena."

The four-day programme features four plays: three written by Al Deen and "Festoon-e Lekha Smriti", an adaptation of Al Deen's accounts of the Liberation War. Dr. Jaharabi Ripon's adaptation, "Festoon-e Lekha Smriti", was staged by Swapnadal on the inaugural day.

Theatre festival at Natmandal ends

Marquez's "No One Writes to the Colonel" staged on the last day



A scene from the play.

JAMIL MAHMUD

The eight-day theatre festival by the Department of Theatre, Dhaka University (DU), ended on August 18 at Natmandal, DU. Titled 'Creative Youth's Theatre Expressions,' the festival featured 15 adaptations of literary works by world-renowned playwrights and authors. Final year students of the department directed the plays.

On the last day, an adaptation of Nobel Prize winning Colombian author Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "No One Writes to the Colonel" was staged. Amitav Roy directed the play based on a translation by Ashok Dasgupta.

Marquez's "No One Writes to the Colonel" is the story of an impoverished, retired colonel, a veteran of the "Thousand Days War", who still hopes to receive the pension he was promised some fifteen years earlier. The colonel lives with his asthmatic wife in a small

town, under martial law.

The play starts with the colonel preparing to go to the funeral of an individual whose death is remarkable because he was the first to die from natural causes in many years.

Apart from featuring the daily lives of the then Colombians, the play notably focuses on personal crisis of people like the colonel, who once dreamt of changing the society through revolution. It also sheds light on the contrast between the coexistence of communism and capitalism in Colombia during that era. The ups and downs in the Colonel's relationship with his capitalist friend Sabas is an example of the contrast.

In his memoir "Living to Tell the Tale", Marquez revealed that "No One Writes to the Colonel" was inspired by his grandfather, who was also a colonel and who never received the pension he was promised.

The play turns more tragic when it is

disclosed that the colonel lives with painful memories of his only son Augustine, who died of stray bullets of the law enforcers.

Tanveer Nahid Khan played the Colonel and Nusrat Sharmin played his wife. The cast also included Mahbubur Rahman, Abdul Hamid and Sifat-e-Rabbi. Ishrat Kabir was the set and light designer.

The festival also featured works by Samuel Becket; Jean Paul Sartre; Harold Pinter; Eugene Ionesco; Charles L. Mee Junior; W.B. Yeats; Eugene O'Neill; Ed Bullins; Yukio Mishima and Rich Smolen. Final year students -- Mithun Chowdhury, Farzana Akhtar Chowdhury, Golam Rabbani, Afsana Siddiqui, Mohsina Aktar, Sharmin Sultana Munmun, Shammi Aktar, Touqir Ahmed, Sandra Nandini Bala, Julhash Mian, Taslima Jahan, Farhana Khanom, Preeti Elizabeth Rosario, Afzal Kabir and Amitav Roy -- directed the plays.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

Anwar Hossain's photography exhibition begins today

A CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Art Centre is holding an exhibition, titled 'Just For You', featuring images by veteran Bangladeshi photographer Anwar Hossain. Hossain has been living in Paris. The exhibition begins today and will continue till August 29.

Photographer, cinematographer and architect Hossain was born in Old Dhaka. His interest in photography began in 1967. He has published a number of books on photography and has held several solo and group exhibitions at home and abroad. Hossain has received several prestigious awards. His works delve deep into urban, suburban and folk cultures.

Noted artist Mustafa Monowar will inaugurate the exhibition today. Theatre personality and chairman of trustee board, Dhaka Art Centre, Ramendu Majumdar, will preside over the opening programme.



TV WATCH

Drama serial "Ochena Manush" on ATN Bangla



A scene from the serial.

A CORRESPONDENT

TV serial "Ochena Manush" will be aired tonight on ATN Bangla at 10:55 pm. Ripon Nabi is the director of the play.

The story revolves around a family, which is headed by a millionaire widow Begum Jahanara. The play begins when the eldest son of the family secretly marries a dancer from a different religious background. The mother blames the son for her husband's untimely death, which she believes was caused by the shock from the son's inter-faith marriage. The story however is gradually forgotten until the eldest grandson starts looking for his stepmother.

The cast includes Afroza Banu, Gazi Rakayet, Kumkum Hasan, Korovi Mizan, Aparna, Alif, Nisho, Tamalika Karmakar, Shams Shumon and Ruhi. The serial airs Friday through Sunday every week.

"Amitabh is my inspiration and role model"

-- Rajinikanth

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Tamil cinema's megastar Rajinikanth may be basking in the glory of playing the lead role in the most expensive movie made in India so far, at a cost of Rs 150-160 crore but he always sticks to his self-effacing trait.

That was in evidence at the launch of the music of 60-year-old Rajinikanth's upcoming "Robot" ("Enthiran" in Tamil) in Mumbai last Saturday night when he said that he considers 67-year-old Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan as his "inspiration and role model."

"He (Amitabh) is my inspiration, role model and guru," said Rajinikanth after the launch of the music of "Robot" by Bachchan.

The music of the film, which is about a scientist who creates a robot, which looks exactly like him, has been composed by Oscar-winner AR Rahman.

At the function, where Rajinikanth and Bachchan shared the dais after three years, the two megastars showered rich compliments on each other.



Rajinikanth (right) with Aishwarya Rai Bachchan in "Robot".

"We have done films like "Andha Kanoon", "Girafar", "Hum", and I can never forget the love, affection and care he showered on me," said Rajinikanth.

"I have always valued his advice while taking important decisions," he added.

Responding to Rajinikanth's remarks, Amitabh said the southern star was "a true son-of-the-soil."

"I had a long association with Rajini and value him as a friend and colleague. He is truly a son-of-the soil who is admired and loved by every Indian," said Amitabh.

"I admire him because of his tender heart and humility. He is so grounded despite the adulation and fame he has enjoyed throughout his career. Given his humble beginning, Rajini is an example for every Indian. His simplicity, honesty and down-to-earth nature have always impressed me," he said.

Regarding "Robot", Rajinikanth said he had earlier worked with its director Shankar in "Shivaji" too. But this role was tough and challenging, he said.

He said Kamal Hassan and Shahrukh Khan had been approached for the role he has done in "Robot". "But I do not know what happened. Maybe, I was destined to get it," he said.

Rajinikanth said the budget for "Robot" is about Rs 150-160 crore as it is technically very superior. But this alone cannot be the criterion for success. "Robot" has an excellent story and characterisation. A mega budget adds to this," he said, adding, he is extremely pleased and satisfied with the way the movie has turned out.

He said it is the first of its kind in India and he is very happy about it.

"Robot" is slated for a September release.



Amitabh Bachchan (left) and Rajinikanth.