

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Calligraphy Exhibition

Calligrapher: Najib Tareque  
Venue: Impressions Gallery, 67, Gulshan Avenue  
Date: August 19-September 19  
Time: 9:30am-2:30pm and 4-5pm (Sunday-Thursday) and 10am-1pm (Saturday)



### Photography Exhibition

Title: Ramadan in the Middle East  
Photographer: Christel Becker-Rau  
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H-10, Rd-9, Dhanmondi  
Date: August 9-September 9  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Group Art Exhibition

Title: Glory of Vision  
Venue: Zainul Gallery-2, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka  
Date: September 2-10  
Time: 11am-8pm



### Photo Exhibition

To mark Int'l Day of Tourism  
Title: Tourist Sights of Moscow and Moscow Region  
Venue: Modern Language Institute, DU  
Date: September 2-28



## Tribute to Poet Abdul Mannan Syed

A CORRESPONDENT

Veteran poet, essayist and literary critic Abdul Mannan Syed passed away on September 5 at his residence on Green Road, Dhaka. He was 67. His died of heart ailments.

Syed started writing poems in 1960. His first book of poetry was published in 1967. Throughout a career spanning over five decades, he had written numerous poems and published over 60 books.

His poems are conceptual and some deal with death, romance and at times the absurd. As an experimental poet, he frequently changed his style and content. He often used the imageries of the moon, sun, sky, clouds and water in his poetry.

He was recognised for his noteworthy research works on Jibanananda Das and Kazi Nazrul Islam. Syed had also done researches on Rabindranath Tagore, Manik Bandopadhyay, Syed Waliullah, Michael Madhusudan Dutt, Ishwar Gupta and other iconic litterateurs.

"Satyer Mato Badmash", "Janmandho Kobita Guchcho", "Park Street-e Ek Ratti", "Kobita Company Private Limited", "Machh Series", "Cholo Jai



Porokhey", "Chhondo" and "Rabindranath" are among his notable works.

In his illustrious career, the versatile writer received several honours including the prestigious

Bangla Academy Award, Ekushey Padak and Alaol Literary Award for his contribution to Bengali literature.

About Syed, veteran poet Mahadev Saha said, "Syed was

undoubtedly one of the multitalented personalities in Bengali literature. He wrote poems, essays, prose, short stories, novels, plays, travelogue and more. He translated and edited many books. His poems are symbolic and surrealistic. I met him in 1969 when we were regularly contributing for 'Konthoshor', one of the notable literary journals of that time. Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed edited the journal. We frequently met him at his Green Road residence. He was very close to the late poets Sikdar Aminul Haque, Abul Hasan and Abid Azad."

Syed was born to Syed AM Badrud-Duja and Anwara Majid in 1943 at Bashirhat in Chobbish Pargana, British India. He studied at Nawabpur Government High School, Dhaka College and the Bengali Department of Dhaka University. He taught at the department of Bengali, Jagannath College, Dhaka. Later he served as the Director General of Nazrul Institute and was the first scholar-in-residence in Bangladesh at North South University. For a long time he was associated with Shilpataru, a monthly literary magazine published from Dhaka by the late poet Abid Azad.

## A full diary

Face to face with Shoeb

A CORRESPONDENT

Actor Shoeb is up to his neck working on 10 Eid-special plays this year. Returning from a shoot in Cox's Bazar, the actor talked about his packed schedule in the run up to the festival:

**The Daily Star (TDS): How many plays have you worked in for this Eid?**

**Shoeb:** At least in 10, half of which are already complete. I'm also working in several serials.

**TDS: Who are directing the plays and who are your co-actors?**

**Shoeb:** Nasiruddin Masud is directing three of the plays, in which Nowshin and Farah Ruma are acting opposite me. I worked with Bindu in the Tanmay Tanshen directed "Bewarish". Mim, Ruhi and Momo star opposite me in Mohon Khan's "Ahmed Shushomoyer" and another drama directed by Kishore.

**TDS: What about your current serials?**

**Shoeb:** Aruna Biswas' "Madhobi Villa"; Ripon Nobi's "Mom-er Putul"; Ejaz Munna's "Dhupchhaya" and Debashish Barua Dwip's "Bhabi" -- featuring me -- are currently being aired on ATN, Ekushey TV, Boishakhi and ntv respectively.

**TDS: You recently worked**



with movie star Moushumi for the first time. What was the experience like?

**Shoeb:** My first opportunity to work with Moushumi was in Chashi Nazrul Islam's film "Dui Purush". Actor Riaz is also in the movie. However, my first silver screen experience

came with Tarek Masud's "Matir Moyna".

**TDS: Are you optimistic about "Dui Purush"?**

**Shoeb:** I am very hopeful about the movie. I believe the audience will enjoy the film as it offers wholesome entertainment.

## Another offering from Humayun Ahmed

"Amra Jege Achhi" to hit the small screen

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Several Bangla TV plays have seen sequels in the past, but Humayun Ahmed's "Tara Tin Jon" is set to go into the record books, as the seventh instalment was shot recently by the acclaimed novelist slash director. The latest addition to the series has been named "Amra Jege Achhi". The cast includes Faruk Ahmed, Dr. Ejaz, Shwadhin Khasru, Masud Akhand, Farah Ruma, Zinat Hossain Juthi and Abdullah Rana.

The plot zooms in on a

mobile phone operator called Amin Phone. The organisation's goal in the play is to bring down the recent trend of suicides caused by harassment from wayward youths. Characters played by Shwadhin Khasru, Dr. Ejaz and Faruk Ahmed lead the drive to stop this damaging trend, and gain success through their endeavours. The managing director of Amin Phone also tries to commit suicide but is stopped by the men. The play ends on a lighter note but with the added touch of a



Humayun Ahmed

social message.

The play was shot in Dhaka, Nuhashpolli and Gazipur. On the seventh sequel, Humayun Ahmed says that he did not plan to extend the original story so

much, adding that his intention is to simply provide entertainment, along with portraying contemporary social issues. "Amra Jege Achhi" will be aired on ntv the day after Eid.



A scene from "Amra Jege Achhi".

## Venice Film Festival 2010

## Tang Dynasty whodunit draws appreciation

AFP, Venice

Hong Kong's Tsui Hark unveiled his latest blockbuster, a Tang Dynasty whodunit, at the Venice film festival Sunday while Kelly Reichardt cast her feminine eye on the Wild West in "Meek's Cutoff".

Tsui's "Detective Dee and the Mystery of Phantom Flame" filled the screen at the Lido with kung fu action, intrigue and period atmospherics as Detective Dee (Andy Lau) investigates threats to seventh-century Empress Wu Zetian's rise to power.

The Vietnamese-born Tsui was not exaggerating when he told a news conference: "We tried to create a complex woven plot to really grab the audience, especially with that twist at the end... You don't know who the murderer is until the very end, unlike other films in the genre."

Reichardt meanwhile put her focus on another woman, the faceless drudge who kept body and soul together with hard work on the monotonous trek out West along the Oregon Trail in mid-19th century America.

The idea for the film came from an

unexpected quarter: the post-September 11 policies of US president George W. Bush, Reichardt said.

John Raymond, who wrote the screenplay, "saw similarities in current things that were going on -- following a leader who is either ignorant or stupid," Reichardt said.

The film is a true story of mountain man Stephen Meek, who persuades a wagon train of emigrants that he knows of a good shortcut, only to lead them to near starvation in the desert.

In her research, Reichardt found that "the diaries of the women show a completely different point of view" from those of the men.

The journals, while starting out full of optimism and romance, end up simply as "lists of chores," she said, adding: "Some of the historical truths revealed themselves in the minutiae, in the labour."

Reichardt saw the project as one of "keeping the women in the same space as they would be in a western but moving the camera to their point of view."

In so doing, she hoped to stay on "the safe side of cliché," Reichardt said, noting

that avoiding "the scenic, overwhelming grandness" of the US far West was an unspoken rule.

Meanwhile, if anyone thought Chile's Pablo Larrain intended to create a dark satire with "Post Mortem" set in the days following Allende's suicide, that is their business, the director said.

"Whether you get a laugh or not depends on the spectators," said Larrain, who won acclaim for his "Tony Manero" about a John Travolta imitator in 2008.

"We have created a poetic vision, a way of looking at it, and not just a bare telling of facts," he said of the film that takes a snapshot of the days after Chile's 1973 military coup against the backdrop of a love story that goes sour.

Using as its starting point the autopsy of deposed socialist president Salvador Allende, the film evokes one of the most dramatic moments in Chile's history.

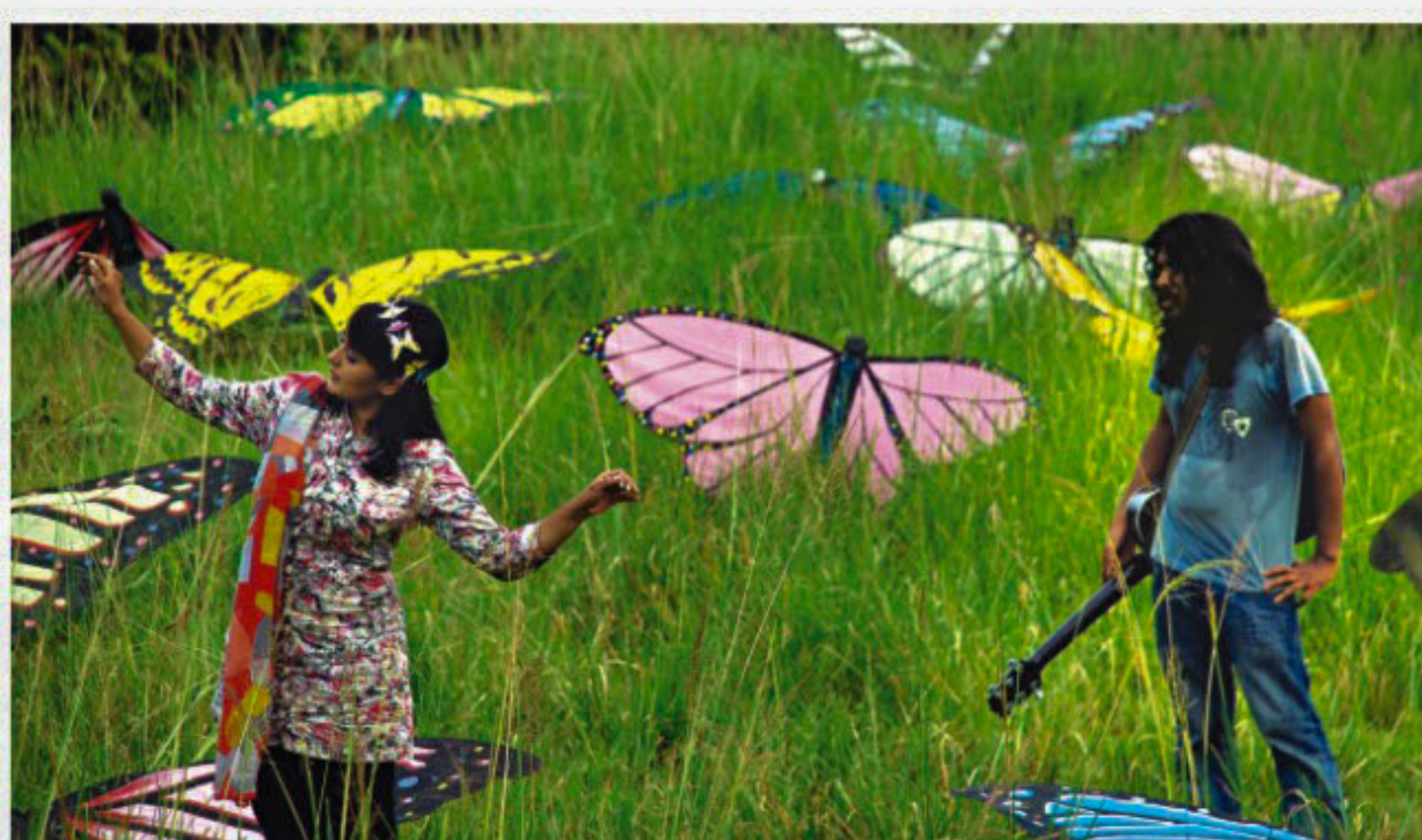
The film is Larrain's third feature and the only Latin American film among the 24 in competition for the coveted Golden Lion, the top prize at the Venice film festival, which runs through September 11.



A scene from Tsui Hark's "Detective Dee and the Mystery of Phantom Flame".

## Eid Special

## Tele-film "Je Jibon Phoring-er" on ntv



A scene from the tele-film.

A CORRESPONDENT

Tele-film "Je Jibon Phoring-er" will be aired on ntv on the third day of Eid-ul-Fitr at 2:30 pm. Written and directed by Masud Hasan Ujjal the cast of the film includes Aupee Karim, Ripon and Shoeb.

The story of the tele-film follows a seemingly slacker named Mudra. One day he bumps into a moving car. A frantic June, who was behind the wheels, rushes to make sure the man her car hit is ok. After a while Mudra moves and surprises June with his annoying, nonchalant attitude. The story rolls on from this strange encounter.