

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Film Screening
 Film: Titas Ekti Nodir Naam
 Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre, 160, Lake Circus, Kalabagan
 Date: November 25
 Time: 6pm



Theatre

Play: Tin Poishar Pala
 Troupe: Bahubachan
 Venue: Zahir Raihan Cultural Centre, Shatrapur
 Date: November 25
 Time: 7:15pm



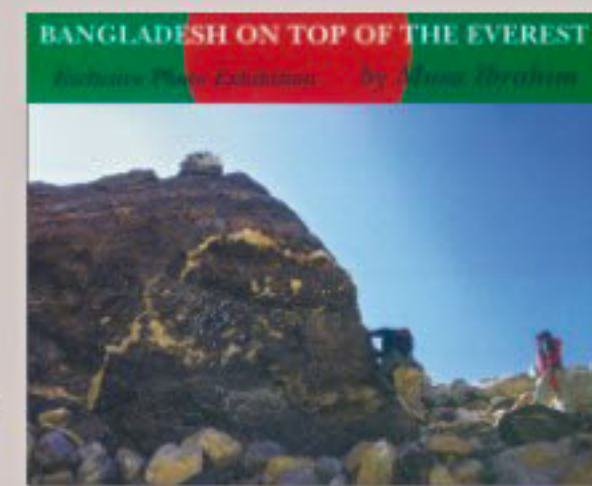
Theatre

Play: Baaramkhana
 Troupe: Theatre
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: November 24
 Time: 6:30 pm



Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: Bangladesh on Top of the Everest
 Photographer: Musa Ibrahim
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
 Date: November 26-December 9
 Time: 9-6pm



Climbing the success ladder

Face to face with Tahsin

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

When "Lux Channel i Superstar" contender Tahsin was a kid, she used to stay glued to every TV play being aired on the small screen. No amount of scolding could draw her away from TV.

Now Tahsin is firmly on the other side of the screen. Having reached the top five in the competition, a long pathway in the media stretches ahead of her. She has already acted in a few plays, along with appearing in several advertisements.

Tahsin caught everyone's attention last Eid by starring in two plays directed by Humayun Ahmed, titled "Rubik's Cube" and "Rupar Ghonta". The emerging actress considers herself lucky as she landed performances in Humayun Ahmed plays so early in her career. Tahsin said Ahmed praised her performance, saying she will do well in the media. But the eminent writer also advised her to act under good directors.

Tahsin's first TV play was Shokal Ahmed's "Shopno Dekha Pakhira", which was aired on Channel i on May Day. A Gazi Rakayet tele-film came after that, and it was followed by Tushar Khan's drama "Kochuripana". She also did a play by Shahnewaz Kakoli, before appearing in



Humayun Ahmed's productions.

Tahsin has worked in an Eid play directed by Partho Sarker. She is also working in Salahuddin Lavlu's "Akash Bondhu", opposite Chanchal Chowdhury.

Apart from acting, Tahsin has also modelled for Fair and Lovely and Lux products, with another advertisement to come out soon.

The actress-model dreams of cementing her place in the media by doing first-rate work. She won't say no to movies, but requires a good script to give her nod to the silver screen. Tahsin also wishes to continue her studies along with her acting gigs.

Asked about the problems she face as an actor, Tahsin says some troubles have tagged along, as she is a newcomer. Observing other actors' performances in plays aired last Eid also inspired Tahsin to perform better. Among contemporary artistes, Momo, Bindu, Anisur Rahman Milon, Chanchal Chowdhury, Mosharraf Karim are her favourites.

Born on April 1, Tahsin's zodiac sign is Pisces. She loves to sleep in her leisure hours or go out with her little brother. Reading books and cooking are also high up on her list. Favourite authors include Humayun Ahmed, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Shamaresh Majumdar.

Ramendu Majumdar attends China Campus Theatre Festival



Ramendu Majumdar speaks at the opening of the theatre festival in Shanghai.

Ramendu Majumdar, president worldwide of International Theatre Institute (ITI), attended the opening ceremony of the 2nd China Campus Theatre Festival held in Shanghai, from November 9 to 18, 2010. He spoke at the opening on behalf of ITI, says a press release.

Hu Zhenmin, president of China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, opened the Festival. Director of Department of Art, Ministry of Culture; Vice Mayor of Shanghai; Deputy Minister of Education; President of Chinese Theatre Association

and President of Chinese ITI also spoke at the opening ceremony, which was held at Shanghai Theatre Academy.

The festival with the theme, 'Youthful Campus, Ideal life', featured 25 plays from 32 universities and colleges. The productions were selected from 126 candidates from 104 universities and colleges throughout China.

Majumdar also visited Xiamen in Fujian province where the next World Congress of ITI is expected to be held in September 2011.

Dead Hawaiian singer enthralls Germany

He is an unlikely pop star: a dead, very big Hawaiian -- 343 kg at one point -- accompanied only by his ukulele.

But get in a taxi in Germany and you will more than likely hear his honeyed voice coming from the speakers behind you.

Go into a cafe and it's the same. There he is: Israel Kamakawiwo'ole, singing gently to a nation.

His recording of "Over the Rainbow" has now spent eight weeks at number one in Germany. It has sold more than 300,000 copies, "going platinum" as they say in the trade.

"Iz", as he was called for short, recorded the song 17 years ago.

Overcome by his weight, the Hawaiian singer and ukulele player then died at the age of 38.

Ten thousand people went to the funeral and a video was put up on YouTube, overlaid with his recording of the classic first made famous by Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz".

A German record producer was so moved when he spotted it that he negotiated for the rights from a small Hawaiian record company.

The song has clearly spoken to the German people and also pushed up ukulele sales in the country.

The producer, Wolfgang Boss of B1 Recordings, reckons it's a very beautiful song. All he did was give it

the kind of promotion that many songs get.

"It's very emotional," he explains. "I thought, 'If I'm able to show this to a big audience in Germany, they will love it.'"

So what's the appeal and why now? Here's a theory.

"Over the Rainbow" was written by a left-wing New Yorker called Yip Harburg at the end of the 1930s as the world was coming out of depression.

He also wrote "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" in 1929, when the world was as deep in depression as it could go.

The earlier song is about economic despair, and the second one is

about economic hope.

Does the success of "Over the Rainbow" mean Germans feel the worst is behind them?

Wolfgang Boss thinks it would have been a hit at any time, but maybe more so now.

"It probably fits better in this time than in 2008, when everything was collapsing," he says.

But he adds: "I think it's just an amazing piece of music. It sounds so authentic, which so much of the music produced now is missing.

Whatever you think of the economic theory behind at least part of the song's success, it has been an economic boost for one bit of indus-

try: ukulele makers.

In Germany's only ukulele store, sales have gone from one a week to four a day.

Its owner, Harald Truetsch, thinks the record helped boost sales. "I know with the song from Iz there are more customers," he says.

However, he goes on, many of his customers don't realise it's a ukulele that Iz is playing.

The picture of him online shows a tiny instrument on his huge frame. "They think he's so big that his guitar seems small," says Truetsch.

Source: BBC



Israel Kamakawiwo'ole.



Shadhona, a centre for advancement of South Asian music and dance, arranged a Kathak (one of the eight forms of Indian classical dance) recital, at Moncho (Shadhona's Studio Theatre), Banani in the capital on November 20. Tahmina Anwar Anika performed Kathak while Sri Gopal Mishra of Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India, Dhaka, accompanied the artiste on tabla.

Kiran wants to come out of Aamir's shadow



Kiran Rao

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Writer-director Kiran Rao wants to come out of the shadow of her Bollywood superstar-husband Aamir Khan and is keen to carve out her own identity as a filmmaker with her forthcoming movie "Dhobi Ghat" and as a creative person.

"I have come to introduce the film myself because I want to have my own identity as a filmmaker and a creative person rather than playing better half to Aamir," Kiran told reporters after unveiling the first look of her debut directorial venture "Dhobi Ghat" in Mumbai last Wednesday.

Kiran also wanted the audience to know that "Dhobi Ghat" is not an Aamir Khan movie, although Aamir is producing the movie and acting in it. "I don't want people to come in with expectations of seeing another 'Ghajini' or '3 Idiots'," she said.

Aamir has let Kiran take the centre stage regarding the promotional activities of the film.

Kiran said Aamir was a "dream actor and a dream producer. It was exciting to direct him in my first

film. We fought a lot."

The director said Aamir was not meant to be in the film. "We were not getting the right actor for the character. Aamir said 'Try me, I can give an audition.' After the audition, I had no other choice," she said.

"Dhobi Ghat", which releases on January 21, also has Prateik

Babbar and two female leads who make their debut with this film.

Kiran said 40 per cent of her film was in English. "It is less of plot-driven and even the aesthetics of filmmaking was different than 'Peepli Live'," she said, adding English was spoken in the film to capture the reality and show the different worlds that

exist in Mumbai.

"The need was to stay honest to the material," she said when asked if English would shrink the audience of the film.

"Dhobi Ghat" was a location in Mumbai and hence is a metaphorical title. It's a story of four people, their relationship with each other and the city of Mumbai, which is the fifth character in the film. It's a slice of life film," she said.

Kiran said her treatment of "Dhobi Ghat" was "subtle and quiet."

"Mumbai inspired me to make a film. The city is my muse and 'Dhobi Ghat' is my tribute to the city," she said.



A scene from "Dhobi Ghat".