

WHAT'S ON

**Bangladeshi Film Screening**  
Film: Guemilla  
Venue: IGCC, Gulshan-1, Dhaka  
Date: Sept 15  
Time: 6:30pm

**Documentary Screening & Recitation From Gitanjali**  
Title: "Bangladesh-e-RabindranathPath Chawatei Akanda"  
Venue: IGCC, Gulshan-1, Dhaka  
Date: Sept 16

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Artist: Mokheer Rahman  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sept 7-16  
Time: 12-8pm

**Solo Nazrul Sangeet Evening**  
Artist: Dr. Pradip Kumar Nandi  
Organiser: Laser Voice Ltd.  
Venue: Chayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi

**Documentary Screening**  
Director: Lovely Shamsunahar  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: September 15

**Film Festival**  
Featuring works of French women filmmakers  
Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sept 10-17

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Shomoy-Oshomoy Golpo  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sept 9-22

**Discussion on Günter Grass**  
Title: Literary Encounters  
Venue: Goethe-Institut, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sept 18

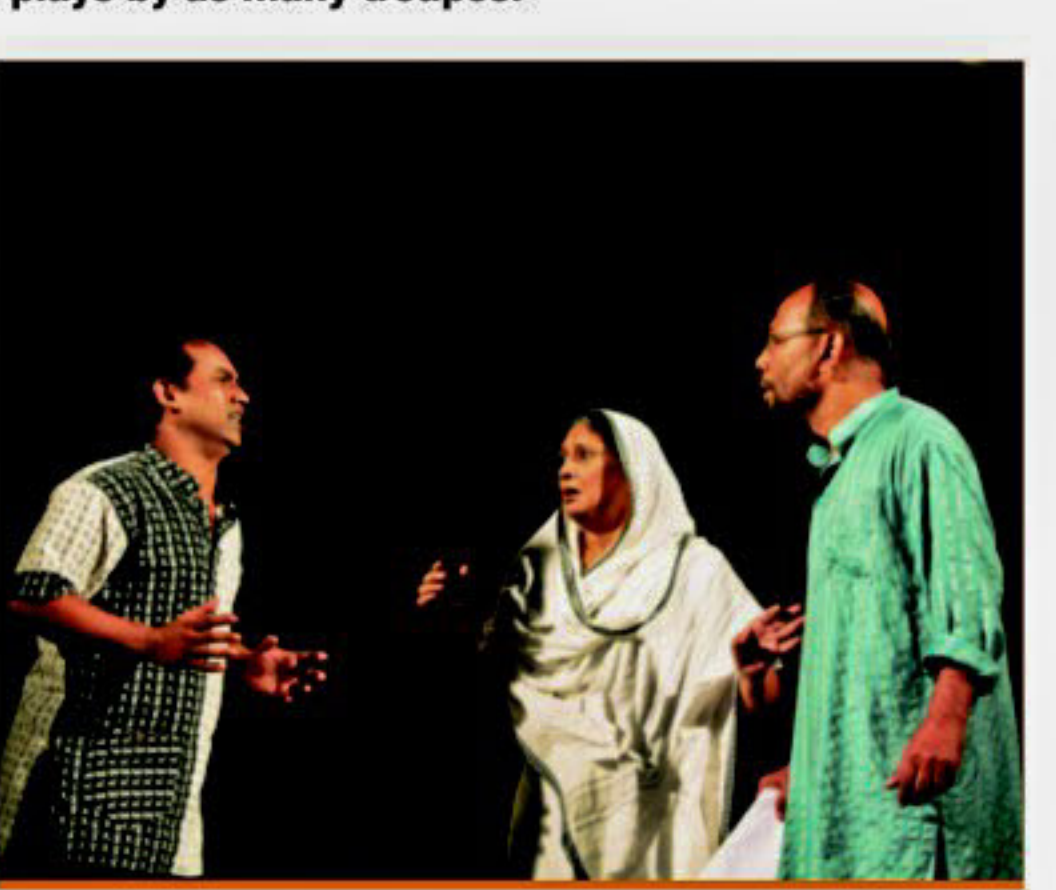
THEATRE FESTIVAL AT MAHILA SHAMITI  
A montage of acts



The second day of the festival featured scenes from 10 plays by as many troupes. PHOTO: GOLAM MAHMUD

**JAMIL MAHMUD**  
The congregation of the theatre activists continued at Mahila Shamiti premises on September 9, as the last festival here before renovation rolled into its second day. Being weekend, the second day saw a good turnout, as Natok Shoroni (formerly Bailey Road) turned into a big adda joint for youngsters. People were chatting around Mahila Shamiti, perhaps the topic was the festival. Arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, the five-day festival features highlights from 48 plays by troupes from and outside Dhaka.

The organisers have been selling tickets only to maintain official obligations. A ticket costs only Tk 10. Many theatre enthusiasts were collecting tickets as memorabilia. Apart from staging of plays, every day seasoned artists (including actors, directors and technicians) have been recalling their experiences related to the venue. On the second day, among others, Natya Kendra front man and noted actor-director Tarique Anam Khan shared his memories. "This venue will be remembered as a part of theatre history. This particular stage has had a great contribution in producing several powerful actors. I have so many fond memories regarding this place," said Khan. The second day of the festival featured scenes from 10 plays by as many troupes. The show started with Abayab Natyadal's "Bhimroti". Twenty



minutes of the satire was featured at the show. A highlight of the day was Natyakendra's "Bichchhu". An adaptation of a Moliere play, the much-acclaimed production featured Tarique Anam Khan as an actor. Khan also is the director of the play. Udichi's "Bou Bashonti" -- a saga on the Liberation War -- was also a treat for the audience. Theatre (Arambagh) staged one of its earliest productions, "Shath Ghatat Kanakori", while Anushilan (Rajshahi) staged scenes from Tagore's "Rother Roshi". Other troupes from outside Dhaka, Barnochora and Ononya Natya Goshtih (both from Chandpur) and Bogra Theatre also staged their plays. Other performances on the day were by Bahubachan Theatre and Dristhitpat Natyadal.

Love, as sensed by Syed Shamsul Haq

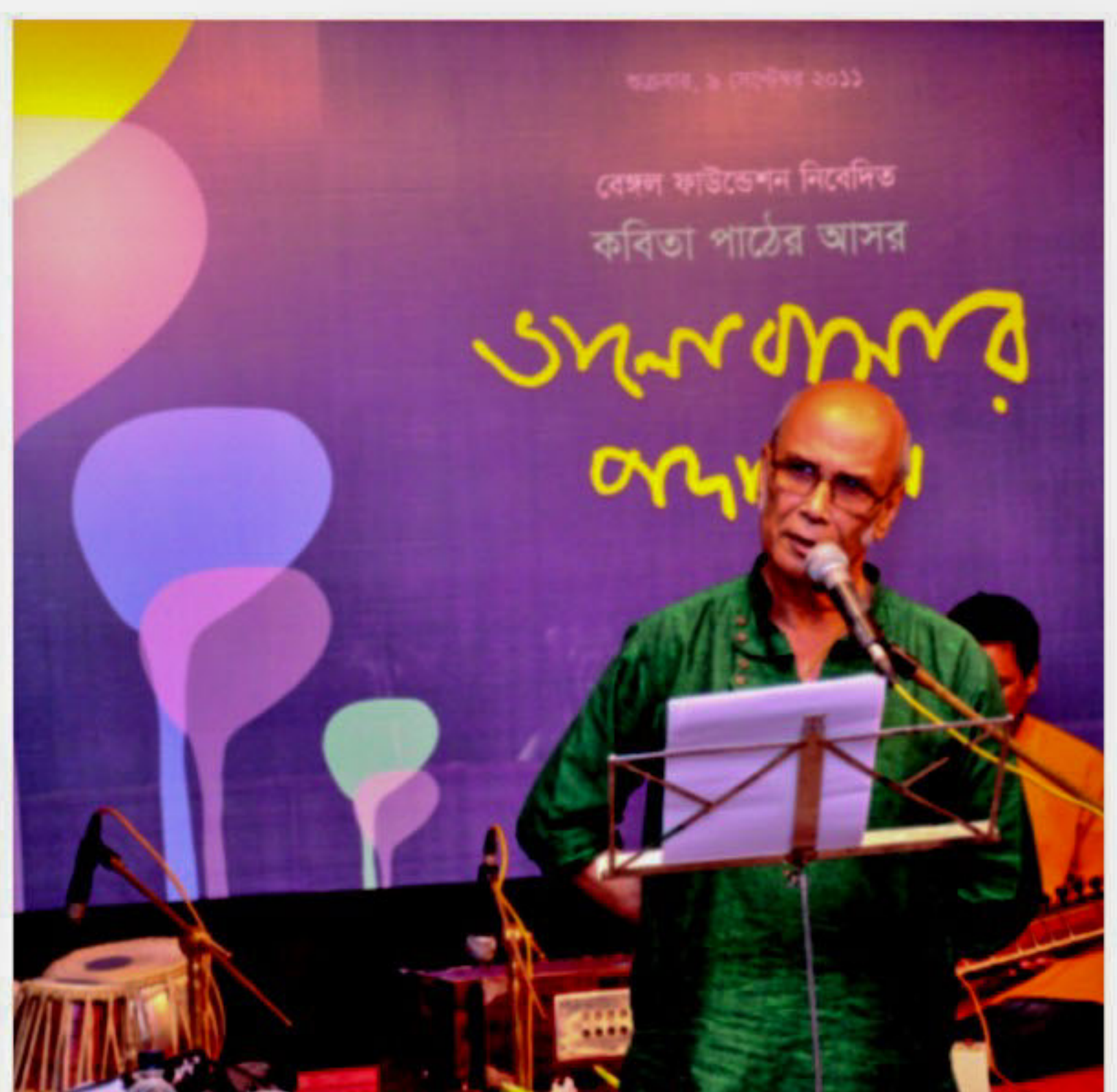
ZAHANGIR ALOM

Bengal Foundation hosted a solo recitation of poetry compilation by writer, novelist, playwright and poet Syed Shamsul Haq. Titled "Bhalobashar Podaboli", the event was held at Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi, in the capital on September 9. Director general of Bengal Foundation Luva Nahid Chowdhury welcomed all at the event. She first invited singer Iffat Ara Dewan to render some of Haq's favourite songs. Dewan performed three songs -- "Tomari Tulona", "Ami Kanoney Kanoney", "Esho Shonar Boron Rani Go" -- from her album "Haath Dhorey Tumi Niye Cholo Shokha" produced by Bengal Foundation.

Syed Shamsul Haq started with a melancholic *pada* (verse) -- "E Sakhi Hamari Dukhok Nah Or, E Bhora Bador, Mah Bhador, Shunyo Mondir Mor" of Bidyapati, one of the prominent Vaishnav poets. Haq also mentioned Rabindranath Tagore was inspired by Bidyapati. Later, he recited Tagore's English translation of Bidyapati's *pada*.

Haq recited from Sanskrit poet Kalidas "Meghadootam". Articulating the original verse "Tonni Shyama Shikhor Darshona...", the poet also expressively recited the Bengali translation by Buddhadev Basu. He explained the gist of the epic too. According to the poem, the treasurer of the Gods, Kuber had a group of divine attendants working for him. Called 'yaksha', one of them was so smitten and obsessed with his wife that he ignored his divine duties. The *yaksha* was cursed and banished into the woods on earth. Thoroughly dejected, he kept thinking about his wife and missed her a lot.

Then one day, monsoon arrived. The *yaksha* saw a cloud pass by and requested it to carry a message to his beloved wife. The emotions of yearning portrayed are so moving that they couldn't have been given a better treatment by any other poet. Haq didn't forget Chandidas and Gyandas -- the two other major Vaishnav poets -- either. Gyandas was an artiste, while Chandidas was a sage. "Shukher Lagiya E Ghor Badhnu



Syed Shamsul Haq recites at the programme.

Onoley Puria Gelo" (Gyandas) and "Kanur Piriti Chandoner Reeti, Ghoshitey Shourabhmoy, Ghoshiya Aniya Hiyaye Loitey Dohon Digun Hoy" (Chandidas) were the excerpts presented by the poet. Recitation of an outstanding sonnet based on a strange love affair between Shom and Tara (wife of Brihospati), written by Michael Madhusudan Dutta, followed.

Haq then presented excerpts from several romantic poems "Amra Dujona Shorgo Khelana" (Rabindranath Tagore); "Tomar Bondona Kori" (Kazi Nazrul Islam); "Shuronona, Oikhaney Jeyo Nako Tumi", "Hajar Bochhor Dhorey Ami Poth Hatitechhi" and "Haye Chil" (Jibanananda Das). The rapt audience was compelled to ask a photographer standing at the front to move aside during the performances. Haq took a short break, requesting esraj artiste Asit Biswas to play Raga Jaijanyati. Prior to reciting his own poems, Haq narrated a real life story that generated waves of laughter among the audience. "I had an unusual

source of income as a student of Dhaka University. I would write love letters for others and charged them Tk 5 for each. Once, one of my friends fell in love with a girl named Mukta. He requested me to write a very special letter for which I charged Tk 10," said Haq.

The poet recited a number of his poems, including "Ek Ashcharjo Shongomero Sriti" and "Poraner Gohin Bhor". The imageries used in a few of his poems were conspicuously indebted to the poetic brilliance of Jibanananda Das. Haq also recited from several of his contemporary poems, some written in colloquial language and more. But one thing was common in all the elocution: love, in its multifaceted expressions. The poet wrapped up with a poem that highlighted powerful imagination coupled with metaphoric elements. The last line uttered by the poet at the event was: "Amar nijekoi tho toiri kora holo na, jatey tomar haath dukhani dhorte pari" (I don't feel ready enough yet to take your hands in mine.)

Brilliant literary nonsense



Sukumar Ray's 88th death anniversary

Bengali poet, storywriter and playwright Sukumar Ray (1887-1923) was perhaps the most famous practitioner of "literary nonsense" in the subcontinent. He is often compared to Lewis Carroll. His works such as "Abol Tabol", the collection of poems "Abol Tabol", novella "HajaBaRala", short story collection "Pagla Dashu" and play "Chalachittachanchari" are considered nonsense masterpieces equal in stature to "Alice in Wonderland", and are regarded as some of the greatest treasures of Bangla literature. Close to a century after his death, Ray remains one of the most popular among children's writers in both Poschim Bongo (former West Bengal) and Bangladesh.

Yesterday marked 88th death anniversary of Sukumar Ray. He was son of the famous children's storywriter Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury and father of the iconic filmmaker Satyajit Ray. Sukumar Ray was also the convener of Monday Club, a weekly gathering of likeminded people at the Ray residence, where the members were free to express their cheeky

opinions about the world at large. Noted poet Mahadev Saha had this to say about Ray: "Sukumar was an unparalleled genius. He lived a short life but produced many invaluable literary pieces. Rabindranath Tagore was a great admirer of Ray. Ray introduced a novel style and his approach was groundbreaking. His use of language, structure and technique gave a distinct aspect to Bengali literature. His writings are not only popular among the young, but also among adults."

In poet Shihab Sarkar's view: "Ray's brilliant rhymes still remain unparalleled. He is still unique. He produced many nonsense verses and plays. It is very saddening that he did not live long. But if he had, he could have given a new dimension to our Bengali literature. But indeed he could do this." "Ray's brilliant rhymes still remain unparalleled. He is still unique. He produced many nonsense verses and plays. It is very saddening that he did not live long. But if he had, he could have given a new dimension to our Bengali literature. But indeed he could do this." In 1906, Sukumar Ray graduated with Honours in Physics and Chemistry from the Presidency College, Kolkata (then Calcutta). He was trained in photography and printing technology in England and was a pioneer of pho-

COMPILED BY CORRESPONDENT

THEATRE FESTIVAL  
"Bhanga Gora Natyatshab 2011"

Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation  
Venue: Neelima Ibrahim Auditorium, Bangladesh Mahila Shamiti, Natok Swarani  
Date: September 8-12  
Time: 6pm onwards

Forty eight theatre troupes from all over the country will stage memorable sequences from their popular plays at the festival.

Today's plays:  
"Tin Poishar Pala" (Bahubachan)  
"Darpane Sharat Shoshi" (Desh Natak)  
"Rastro Banam" (Subachan)  
"Beder Meye" (Padatik Natya Sangsad, TSC)  
"Juddho Ebhong Juddho" (Theatre, Topkhana Road)  
"Ghum Nei" (Mahakal)  
"Shadharon Galpo" (Dhaka Theatre Mancho)  
"Bastu Bhit" (Gano Natya Kendra)  
"Adam Surat" (Sanglap Group Theatre)  
"Bhaddomok" (Natyachakra)

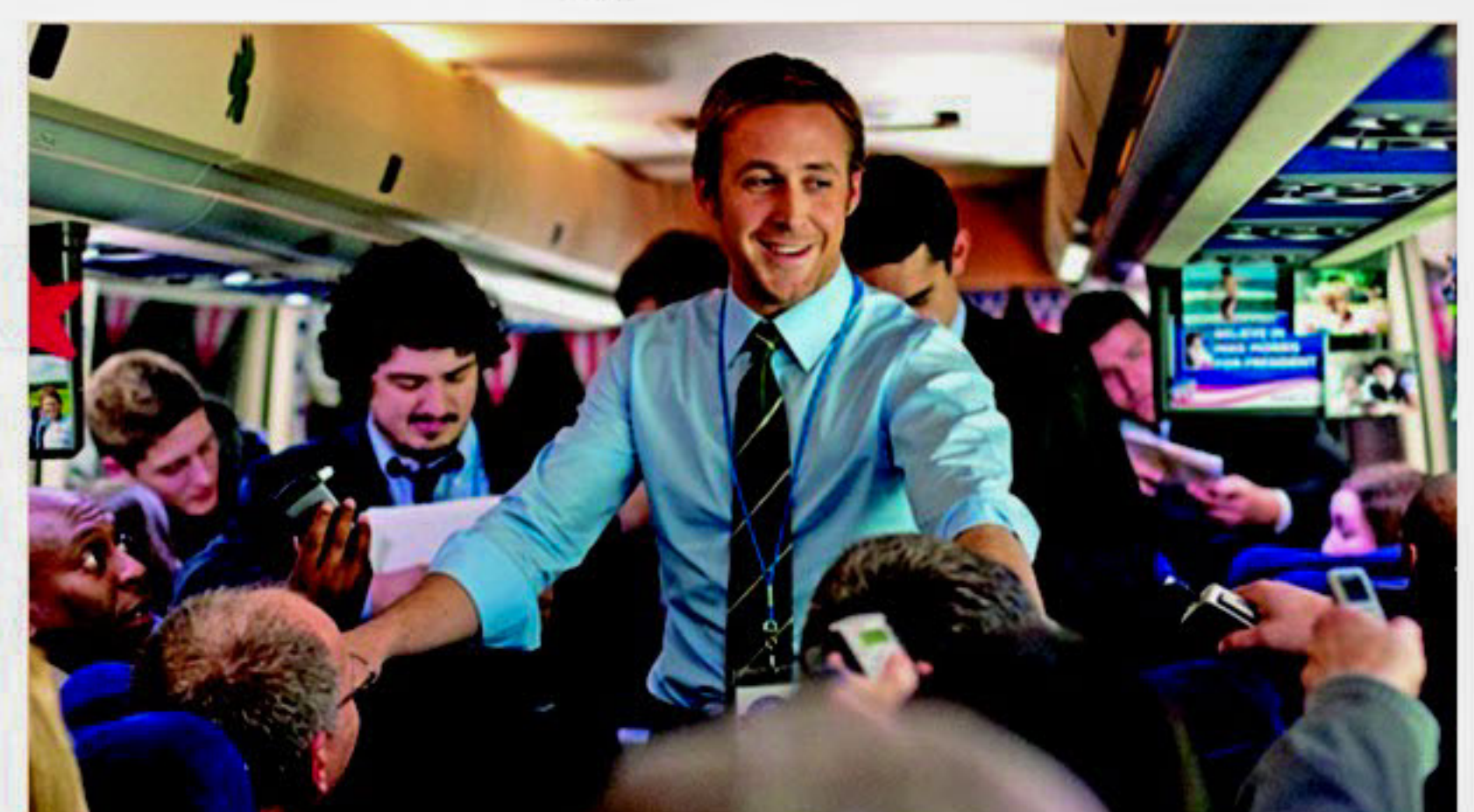


An unrecognisable Zahid Hasan



Any Bangladeshi who watches TV knows actor Zahid Hasan, but on September 9 the actor was seemingly unrecognisable. Hasan, in bright orange *panjabi* and white *lungi*, was shooting for a play "Benefit of Doubt". Though he was surrounded by an enthusiastic crowd or onlookers, apart from the director and the crew no one seemed to recognise Hasan. Why? Hasan had put on fake teeth that had drastically changes his visage. Once the fake teeth came off, the crowd instantly recognised him. The play, shot at Pubail village in Gazipur, reunited Hasan with model-actress Monalisa. Before this Hasan and Monalisa had worked together in Hanif Sanket's "Putrodaye".

It's Toronto, it's the films, it's the big one



Ryan Gosling in "The Ides of March".

Is "Anonymous" this year's "The King's Speech"? Is George Clooney a show-off? Are documentaries back?

These questions and many more are likely to be answered over the next 10 days, as the 36th Toronto International Film Festival -- which began Thursday night with a gala screening of Davis Guggenheim's Bono-worshipping U2 documentary "From the Sky Down" -- shifts into hyperdrive. North America's biggest film fest, a launching pad for Oscar contenders and awards-season wannabes, boasts 268 features, 68 shorts, and Clooney times two.

The impressive and impeccably cool resident of Lake Como, Italy, comes to this bustling Ontario town (no recession here, it seems) with a pair of serious contenders: Clooney stars in "The Descendants", Alexander Payne's (of "Sideways" fame) Hawaii-set portrait of an absentee dad reconnecting with his daughters, and he co-stars in "The Ides of March", as a liberal-leaning Pennsylvania governor running for the presidency. Clooney directed this one, and gives Ryan Gosling, playing a key campaign strategist, a shot at the best-actor sweepstakes. (In fact, if "The Descendants" is as strong as its early buzz, Clooney and Gosling could be competing for the same Oscar.)

As for "Anonymous", the Elizabethan intriguer stars Rhys Ifans as Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, a British noble who, Roland Emmerich's film suggests, actually wrote many of Shakespeare's plays. The film is set against the political upheaval of Queen Elizabeth I's succession, and Vanessa Redgrave plays the queen, and right there is reason enough to see this.

In addition to Guggenheim's U2 homage, the documentary field at TIFF 36 includes Werner Herzog's "Into the Abyss", the profile of a Texas killer on death row; Alex Gibney's "The Last Gladiators", about hockey players; Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky's "Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory", the latest chapter on the fates of the three men just released from prison after serving 18 years for the killing of three boys (charges that DNA tests finally proved false); a Morgan Spurlock survey of the annual fanboy fete Comic-Con; and a Neil Young concert film from director Jonathan Demme.

Potential aplenty  
Two day children's drama competition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Children's theatre groups from Pabna and Natore who staged the plays "Bir Purush" and "Khelader Khobor" were adjudged first and second respectively in the two-day children's drama competition of Rajshahi division. The competition, ending at Rajshahi on Friday, was organised by the Rajshahi unit of Bangladesh Shishu Academy at its premises. The first and second position winners will take part in the national level competition to be held in Dhaka. Some 22 children's theatre groups from eight districts under Rajshahi division took part in the competition and six groups were selected for prizes. Among the four other winning groups, Mohonpur Children's theatre group secured third position with "Obak Jolpan", Yakubia Girls High School group of Bogra took fourth position with the staging of "Atmatyag", another group of Bogra and children's group of Engeet Theatre from Natore secured fifth and sixth positions



Child actors of Naogaon staging "Alif Laila" on the last day of the competition.

with "Thakbo nako boddho ghore" and "Obak Jolpan". Rajshahi Deputy commissioner Abdul Hannan distributed prizes among the winners in a ceremony held on the concluding day with the Children's Affairs Officer Mosarrat Hossain. Earlier on Thursday, the competition began with the academy transforming into festival grounds for theatre lovers who said quality child theatre artists can be created if they are fostered properly.

A GALAXY OF STARS IS BORN ON THE HORIZON!

for star gazing and to learn more about this historic event, keep your eyes on tomorrow's pages.

**Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES**  
now reaching for the stars

BTV	12:35 Shukhi Paribar	10:30 Bangla Feature Film
	03:05 Amader Ohongkar	08:10 Priya Mukh
	05:05 Jalya Television Bitarka	09:20 Drama Serial: Shamparko
	08:40 Drama Serial: Boro Mia	10:50 Reporters Dairy
	09:05 Chhoto Mia	11:30 Boishakhi Sanskriti O Binodon
	09:05 Drama Serial: Ontor Gali	
ATN BANGLA	01:25 Shurer Madhuri	Maasranga Television
	03:10 Khehar Jogot	10:02 Bangla Feature Film
	05:35 Dhak Dhol	06:30 Khola Mon
	09:20 Drama Serial: Coming Soon	07:30 Prime Issue
	11:30 Drama Serial: Amader Shinghar	09:02 Drama: Galgopuchhu
		09:30 Rupa Ami O Rashed
		11:00 World Music
CHANNEL i		ETV
01:05 Ebhong Cinemar Gaan		04:30 Desh Jurey Oporadi
06:00 Chhayabhongkar		07:50 Porikroma
06:20 I Spect		09:30 Tara Bhora Raat
09:35 Drama Serial: Jogajog		09:30 Drama Serial: Lalita
11:30 Prokriti O Jibon		12:05 Ekushey-er Raat
		02:00 Sunday Live

abc Radio FM 89.2	10:00 Morning Express
09:00 Muktahoto Jibonye	12:30 No Tension
12:00 Duran Duranye	04:00 Dhaka Calling
02:05 The Daily Star Jibonye	09:00 Full Volume
	11:00 Back 2 Back music
	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
03:00 Jyggan	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
05:00 Duran Duranye	12:00 Today's Adda
09:00 Raak-er Akushey	04:00 U-Turn
11:00 Golper Sheeh Nei	07:00 Toky Tai Hok
	10:00 Raat Shor Gaan

**Ghumghar**  
On ntv at 09:00pm  
Single Episode TV Play  
Cast: Shatabdi Wadud, Joya Ahsan

**Remember Me**  
On Star Movies at 09:10pm  
Genre: Drama/Romance  
Cast: Robert Pattinson, Emilie de Ravin

**Shimana**  
On Rtv at 12:05am  
Documentary Programme  
Host: Shahar Islam

Rtv	12:35 Bangla Feature Film	01:30 School Angina
	05:30 Gaane Gaane	06:30 Suphala Bangladesh
	Bhalobasha	08:00 Drama Serial: Quick Marriage
	09:50 Dhruopodi Kahini	08:30 Career Line
	11:30 Drama Serial: Ronger Shinghar	11:05 Shorol Poth
	12:05 Shimana Periyee	
BANGLAVISION	11:05 Shakal Bolar Roddur	04:45 Almost Famous
	12:05 Bangla Feature Film	07:30 Phoebe in Wonderland
	05:20 BCS Prostuti	09:30 American Beauty
	08:15 Drama Serial: Ladies First	12:50 Lions of Punjab Presents
	11:25 Business Vision	03:05 Rebound
ntv	10:05 Bangla Feature Film	04:45 Twilight Saga, The: Moon
	01:00 Shaista Protidin	07:00 Twilight Saga, The: Eclipse
	04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	09:10 Remember Me
	09:00 Drama: Ghumghar	11:05 When In Rome
	11:30 Aparaj Jiggasha	HBO
Desh TV	04:00 Desh Janopad	10:35 Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
	04:30 Durpath	04:05 Sherlock Holmes
	06:30 Sanskritir Sharadesh	06:50 Game of Thrones
	08:15 Drama Serial: Sat Kadeh	09:30 Shrek Forever After
	09:45 Ke Hote Chay Kotpoti	11:30 The Last Future
Boishakhi TV		Star World
		02:30 Cops

ATN BANGLA	08:15pm Sharayatey Bona Ghar	08:15pm Long March
08:00pm		ntv
08:40pm	Putul Kheta	08:15pm Chander Nijer Kori Alo Hee
CHANNEL i		
07:55pm	Chotta Pagol	Desh TV
Rtv		07:45pm Gohiney
08:20pm	Ibnar Gaan	Boishakhi TV
09:05pm	Oloshpur	08:45pm Tokhon Hemanta
BANGLAVISION		Maasranga Television

NEWS BULLETIN	
BTV	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30am
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm, News (English) at 6:00pm
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	Rtv
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	ntv
NEWS (Bangla): 7:30 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:30 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm
NEWS (Bangla): 7:30 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:30 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am	News (English): 9:00 am, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm.

TALK SHOW	
BTV	07:40pm Our Democracy
10:25pm	Ohongkar-er Bangladesh
ntv	12:00am Ei Shomoy
ATN BANGLA	Desh TV
11:15am	Vision 2020
11:45pm	Shuja Khatu
CHANNEL i	Boishakhi TV
09:45am	Titto Matra
12:30pm	Taroka Kothon
ETV	12:00am Zero Hour
Rtv	10:10pm Media Gossip