AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN

Much of contemporary literary and criti-

cal theory is dominated by French phi-

French have the upper hand in critical

thinking and philosophy, Jim Powell, ir

wrote that for decades, French intellec-

tuals -- mostly regarded as national tre

sures and celebrities -- sat at cafes,

to him, French philosophers were

placed orders, fumbled for cigarettes,

thought about things and presided over

lot of table talks. That is how, according

During the last couple of decades, if

anyone took a walk around Aziz Market,

he/she would have found a similar ambi-

vicinity and adjacent sidewalks. People

of different ages, and obviously of con-

siderable intellect and taste, are seen

chatting about philosophy, politics or

just sitting languidly over a cup of tea

and contemplating. From these inform

table talks and interminable kicking

Exhibition in Nepal featuring

in China from September 19

with major support of the Chinese govern

open by Zhao Shi, general secretary of

China Federation of Literary and Art Cir-

cle, and Ramendu Majumdar, president of

ITI Worldwide, in presence of the Mayor of

Xiamen city, director of Art Department of

At the opening ceremony, ITI Medal

will be awarded to Dr. Sheikh Sultan Al

Qasimi, the ruler of Sharjah and a mem-

ber of the Supreme Council of the United

Arab Emirates, for his outstanding contri-

bution to the global performing arts sec-

the Ministry of Culture and prominent

The congress will be formally declared

ment and Xiamen city authorities.

Bangladeshi seasoned painters

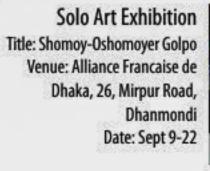
ance at the restaurants/cafes in the

his book on postmodernism, jokingly

losophers. To draw a reason why the









Siddhartha Art Gallery, Nepal and Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts,

Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Bangladesh and Nepal

Bangladeshi contemporary painters, says a press release.

The exhibition is now on at Siddhartha Art Gallery in

Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafigun Nabi, Monirul Islam,

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, among others, spoke at the

Mahmudul Haque and Shahid Kabir.

The 33rd World Congress of the Interna-

tional Theatre Institute, the world's largest

organisation for the performing arts, will

Exhibition Centre in Xiamen, China, says a

Held under the patronage of UNESCO,

and artistic focus, manifested in the diverse

the congress will have strong educational

range of workshops, presentations and

cross-cultural collaborations with local

music theatre. This is the first ITI world

congress to take place in China. The Chi-

nese Centre of ITI is organising the congress tor as the main benefactor of ITI. This

artistes, in addition to a sumptuous show-

case of Xiqu, the generic term for Chinese

be held from September 19 to 24 at the

Xiamen International Conference and

Embassies, have jointly organised a group art exhibition, titled

"Nepal Rendezvous-2". The exhibition features the works of ten

Katmandu, Nepal. Featured painters are Qayyum Chowdhury,

Syed Jahangir, Mustafa Monowar, Tahera Khanom, Samarjit Roy

Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture (Ne-

pal) Dinesh Hori Adhikari inaugurated the exhibition on Sep-

tember 10. Bangladeshi painter Syed Jahangir, Sangeeta Thapa,

director of Siddhartha Art Gallery; Subir Chowdhury, director of

Besides the group art exhibition, a three-day art workshop

will be held from September 13 to 15 in Katmandu. Painters

from both Bangladesh and Nepal will take part in the work-

Metamorphosis of a boi para



back, many popular filmmakers, actors,

Writers and poets of this generation

theatre activists and writers have

like Sajjad Sharif, Sanjib Purohit,

Ahmed, Mustafa Zaman, Mamun

Bratya Raisu, Shantanu Chowdhury,

Alfred Khokon, and artists like Ronn

Kaiser and several others had spent a

considerable length of time at and

around Aziz Market. It is understand

had made a significant contribution t

their making. Also noticeable was the

presence of left-leaning (socio) politi-

cal organisations in the area; many of

them had their offices on the 2nd and

filmmakers and actors like Mostofa

Animesh Aich and many others were

Sarwar Farooki, Marjuk Russel,

had become celebrities.

(From left) Syed Jahangir, Dinesh Hori Adhikari and Sangeeta Thapa

prestigious medal is awarded to excep-

recognise the critical role they play in

through their creativity, generosity and

Changrong will be honoured as the new

A seventeen-member delegation from

Bangladesh, under the leadership of Ataur

Rahman (president of Bangladesh Centre

The theme of this year's congress is:

Empowering the performing arts: A jour-

be followed by a gala performance by Plum

ney to Xiqu.' The opening ceremony will

vision. Veteran Chinese artiste, Shang

World Theatre Ambassador of ITI.

of ITI) will attend the congress.

Blossom Winners troupe.

shaping the global performing arts

tional artistes and patrons of the arts to

at the inaugural programme.

Over the last few years the place has gone through a transformation. Instead of the grumpy literary critics, the market is being taken over by mostly fashion enthusiasts and

'Somoy' in the 1980s and met here

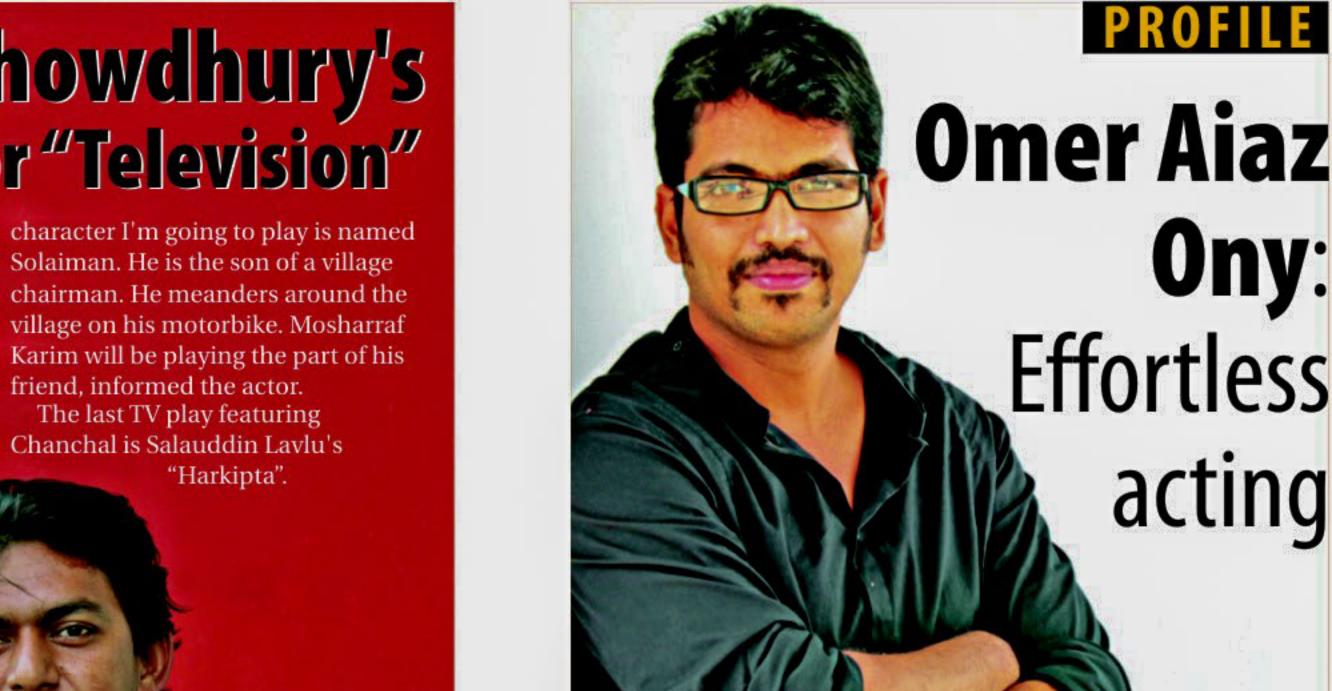
the places, why did Aziz Market become the hub of all these intellectual hubbubs For one thing, the rather unattractive building in which publishing houses and book shops began to gather was pretty close to Dhaka University. Some people called it boi para [neighbourhood of books]. So the students and academics involved in progressive cultural and political organisations went there to find their desired books that were not available in the traditional and more commercial bookshops at Nilkhet and New Market. Realising the demand, bookstore owners offered foreign books on philosophy, literature, social science and other subjects that were of partic-

Artist Nisar Hossain along with his contemporaries like Dhali Al Mamun Dilara Begum Jolly, Habibur Rahman Shishir Bhattacharjee, Saidul Haque Juise formed an artists' circle called brought numerous young writers and poets to this place. Cutthroat debate on cultural theories like modernism and postmodernism, or discussion on a poem setting the table on a roar, were common features there.

However, over the last few years the place has gone through a transformaics, the market is being taken over by mostly fashion enthusiasts and publishing houses, socio-political

"The transformation of Aziz Market i related to other economic factors. You can see it as an effect of the free market economy," said Firoz Ahmed who has been a regular at the market for years. Indeed many of the bookstores can't simply afford to be here anymore. The little magazine movement is also on the wane. And the grey anonymous shops of publishing houses are replaced by welllit, colourful clothing stores.

However, a few book and record stores that still remain here draw academics and ardent readers to the market.



Thousands of avid Humayun Ahmed fans who are familiar with his unconventional character Shubhr will perhaps remember Omer Aiaz Ony who played the protagonist in a TV adaptation of the popular novel Or, some may remember the English-speaking, slightly pretentious, but nonetheless interesting charac ter in "Bhalobashi Tai", a telefilm aired on ntv. Better still, viewers, who watched the special TV programmes this Eid, would reco nise Ony, because his plays were broadcast on several channels

The real Ony wears glasses. Do the characters he plays contribute the shaping of his exterior? "Oh no (laughs), I don't want to be identi fied with the characters I play. And I also try to avoid those idiosyncrasies from my roles," says Ony. "In fact, I often try not to wear my glasses since I worked in 'Shubhro'," he adds, sensing what the question implicitly hinted at.

Indeed, there is diversity in the roles he played so far. For example, in Nasiruddin Yousuff's "Guerilla",

Ony's presence on the screen as a freedom fighter during the Liberation War was short but very bold. Then, his role of a caring, loving husband in Shihab Shahin's starstudded "Bhalobashi Tai Bhalobeshe Jai" (aired recently during Eid) is also worth mentioning.

There is something about his temperament that makes his acting seem rather effortless. He had tried his hand at several professions, but had always been more or less involved with acting since the early 1990s. Ony joined theatre troupe Tribeni in 1994, and after about five years joined Nagorik Natya Sampraday, and worked in many popular productions of the latter.

He also works on radio adaptations of plays and is an enlisted artiste of Bangladesh Betar. With the proliferation of many satellite TV channels and the invention of new forms of entertainment, the popularity of radio adaptations is on the wane. But Ony likes giving vocals for the radio plays. "After theatre, I love working for the radio adaptations most," he says. When asked about his future plans, he says: "I just want to be involved in acting."

Omer Aiaz Effortless acting PHOTO: MUMIT M.



On BANGLAVISION



of Secrets

Star Movies

Star World BCS Prostuti

05:20

Boishakhi TV

Master Chef Australia Rules of Engagement

Discovery Channel

20pm Shaat Purusher Dhaka 08:45pm 0 Chand

NEWS BULLETIN News (Bangla) at 7:30am.

2:00 pm.5:00 pm.8:00 pm. lews (English) at 10:00am, inglish) 11:30 pm. (To be

elecast on all Bangla News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm

ATN BANGLA NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:0 am, 4:00 am 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm

News (Bangla): 2:30 pm,

10:30 pm, 12:30 am

4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm

Desh TV

TALK SHOW

Chanchal Chowdhury's new avatar for "Television" A CORRESPONDENT

Chanchal Chowdhury had to grow

blockbuster "Monpura". For "Mone

for Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's next

film "Television". "I'll have to get

He is rehearsing for "Televi-

never had to master the dialect

of Noakhali. I'll have to speak in

rid of my hair shortly. I've

mentally prepared myself to

lose my beloved hair," said

sion" at Farooki's office ever

day. "I've acted in many TV

plays and feature films, but

the Noakhali dialect for

Farooki bhai's film," he

How is he learning

the dialect? "Farooki

are pretty fluent in

the Noakhali dia

The commit

lect. I'm taking

lessons from

them," said

ted thespian

also said tha

he wouldn't

work in any

more TV

plays this

year, as he

Noakhali

for two

ing in

will be stay

Chanchal.

Chanchal.

Now the actor will go nearly bald

long hair for Giasuddin Selim's

Manush", he had to lose weight.

shopaholics.

These individuals had also made signifi cant contribution to the contemporary art scene of Bangladesh However, an obvious question is, of all

able that the adda (informal gathering) 3rd floors of the market. Accomplished seen hanging out here even after they

> ular interest to these voracious readers. Moreover, most of the Dhaka-based literary periodicals or little magazines were housed at Aziz Market. That also

tion. Instead of the grumpy literary critshopaholics. Most of the bookstores and groups, literary magazines have left the

Andy Whitfield, star of Spartacus series, dies at 39

Andy Whitfield, who played the title role in the hit cable series partacus: Blood and Sand", nas died at age 39, according to epresentatives and family.

Whitfield died Sunday in Sydney, Australia, 18 months after he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, manager Sam Maydew told the Associated Press.

"On a beautiful sunny Sydney pring morning, surrounded by s family, in the arms of his oving wife, our beautiful young warrior Andy Whitfield lost his 18 month battle with lymphoma cancer," Whitfield's wife Vashti said in a statement. "He passed peacefully surrounded by love. Thank you to all his fans whose love and support have helped carry him to this point. He will be remembered as the inspiring, courageous and gentle man,

father and husband he was." Andy Whitfield -- who was born in Wales and moved to Australia in 1999 -- was a virtual unknown when he was cast as the legendary Thracian slave in Spartacus", a role made famous by Kirk Douglas in the 1960 Stanley Kubrick film.

The series proved a breakout hit for the Starz network and made waves with its graphic violence and sexuality. Whitfield appeared in all 13

to shoot the second when he

was diagnosed with cancer.

colleague, Andy Whitfield," Starz treatment and expected recovery, the network produced a six-

part prequel, "Spartacus: Gods of the Arena", that aired earlier this year with only a brief voiceover from the actor.

But in January after Whitfield's condition grew worse, the network announced episodes of the first season that that another Australian actor. aired in 2010, and was preparing Liam McIntyre, would take over the role. "We are deeply saddened by

President and CEO Chris Albrecht said in a statement Sunday night. "We were fortunate to have worked with Andy in 'Spartacus' and came to know that the man who played a champion on-screen was also a champion in his own life."

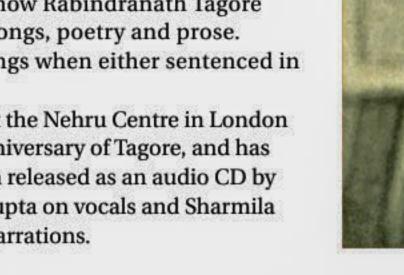
Whitfield's previous credits included appearances on the Australian TV shows "Packed to the Rafters" and "McLeod's While waiting for Whitfield's the loss of our dear friend and Daughters".

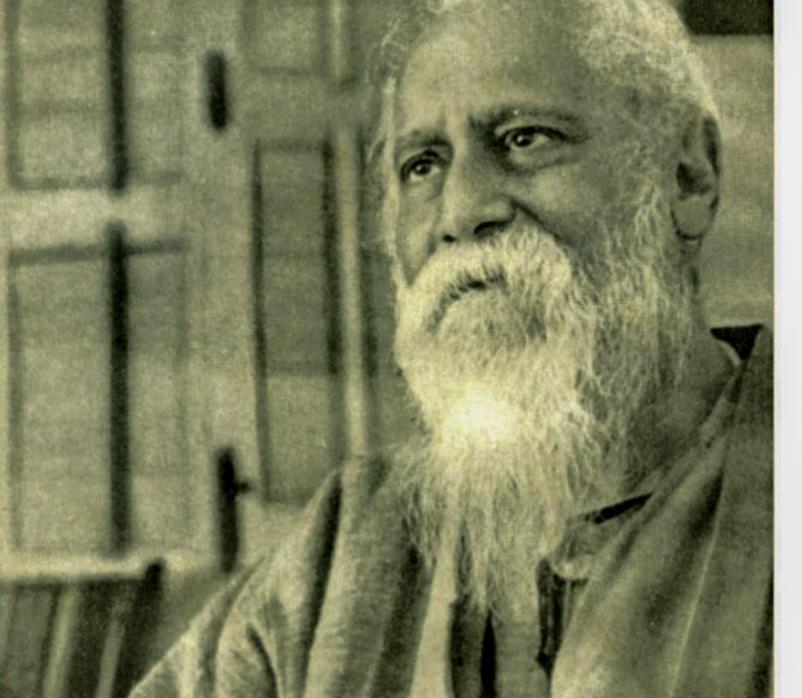
Audio-visual presentation on Rabindranath Tagore

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Dhaka is holding an audio-visual presentation on Rabindranath Tagore. Titled, "Karagrihe Rabi Montro" the presentation by Dr. Ananda Gupta from UK, will be held on September 17, 2011 at 6:30pm at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (35, Road 24, Gulshan 1), according to a press release.

The hour-long event -- featuring narration, visual presentation and songs by Dr. Ananda Gupta -- will examine through a chain of interesting incidents and events how Rabindranath Tagore inspired freedom fighters with his songs, poetry and prose. Indian freedom fighters sang his songs when either sentenced in

court, or in the cell. The programme was earlier held at the Nehru Centre in London on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Tagore, and has won great critical acclaim. It has been released as an audio CD by HMV SAREGAMA with Dr. Ananda Gupta on vocals and Sharmila





Festival highlighting French women filmmakers



A scene from "Two Days In Paris". September 17.

Tagore, Sabyasachi Chakraborty on narrations.

"Looking For Cheyenne", Laetitia Colombani's "My Stars", Julie Delpy's "Two Days In Paris", Anne Fontaine's "The Girl From Monaco" and more. Two films will be screened each evening till

To mark its 25th anniversary, Zahir Raihan Film Society, in association with Alliance Française de Dhaka, has organised a special film festival, titled "Tribute to Women Filmmakers from France". The film screenings are now on at the auditorium of

Alliance Française, Dhanmondi in Dhaka. The event was inaugurated on September 10. Around 14 French films with English sub-titles are being screened at the event.

The films include Laetitia Colombani's "He Loves Me -- He Loves Me Not", Marina de Van's "Ne Te Retourne Pas", Anne Fontaine's "My Father and I", Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis", Valerie Minetto's

11:45pm Shoja Kotha Boishakhi TV 12:00am Zero Hour 10:40am Tarokalap

World War II in Colour Man Woman Wild

DRAMA SERIAL

08:15pm No Problem