

WHAT'S ON

Tagore Film Retrospective
Organiser: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahabagh
Date: Sept. 23-26

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Dravid Saitoh
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhammond
Date: Sept 16-27
Time: 10am-8pm

Tagore Dance Drama "Siyama"
By writers of Viswabarathi University
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Photography Exhibition
To celebrate 22 years of Dhik
Venue: Dhik Gallery, H 56, Rd 15A (new), Dhammond
Date: Sept. 25-30
Time: 3-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: Studio 48
Title: Reminiscence of Childhood
Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, Dhammond
Date: Sept. 27-29
Time: 12-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Portraits: Riddle of Characters
Artist: Apurba Kanti Das
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhammond
Date: Sept. 30-Oct. 13
Time: 3-9pm

Theatre
Play: A Man For All Seasons
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: September 26

Memorial Programme on Tareque Masud, Mishuk Munier & ARIHANazzarman
Venue: Post Sada Katali Auditorium, National Museum
Date: September 27
Time: 5:30pm

Mamunur Rashid on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2011 Bangla Theatre stages a coup with The Distant Near



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Mamunur Rashid in a scene from "The Distant Near".

JAMIL MAHMUD

Bangla Theatre has produced a monodrama, titled "The Distant Near", highlighting two creative titans -- Rabindranath Tagore and William Shakespeare. The play has been written by Shahidul Mamun, and directed, designed by Faiz Zahir. Amit Mallick directed the music. Seasoned actor Mamunur Rashid enacts several characters in the play, including Tagore, Shakespeare and major characters created by both bards.

In a first for a Bangladeshi play, "The

Distant Near" featured at the prestigious Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2011, held last month.

The troupe held seven shows at the festival and several more in London and Oxfordshire. After a nearly month-long stay in UK, Rashid and his troupe returned home recently.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the veteran actor gave a take on the play's success and different aspects of the festival.

"Sometimes reality goes beyond expectations, and that is what happened in Edinburgh. Such a brave world of theatre! Everyday perfor-

mances were on in about 300 venues! All the available spaces had been turned into stages; theatre companies designed the given space to meet their own convenience. The whole city was in a festive mood," said Rashid about the colours of the festival.

The authorities arranged for the theatre companies at the festival to stage at least seven shows of their respective productions so that a larger audience could see the performances.

Edinburgh turned into a study of diversities; even the stages of the hotels were turned into venues. Rashid and his troupe were allotted Hotel Radisson as

the venue, located at the city centre, and the epicentre of the festival.

Rashid said that to accommodate the large number of shows at least seven companies had to perform at one particular venue. Everyday the show started at noon and continued till around 9pm. A one million-strong audience had options to choose from 2,500 shows, while 21,000 performers displayed their skills. Nearly 1.9 million tickets were sold. The age of the performers ranged from 17 to 70. Theatre companies from all over the world took part in the festival.

The Bangladeshi community living

in the city as well as from adjacent cities turned up to see Bangla Theatre's production. "They lauded our performance and took pride in it. Local communities were similarly enthusiastic," said Rashid.

"The Distant Near" is a tribute to Tagore on his 150th birth anniversary [this year], and also marks 200 years of Shakespeare and his plays on the Bengali stage. Rashid said that everyday they staged the play at noon, but the overall turnout was impressive. As the festival was held at around 300 venues, it was a massive cultural extravaganza.

"The Distant Near" is an attempt to see Shakespeare through the eyes of Rabindranath who, although separated by centuries and two different cultures, sings about the struggles of the former, against great odds of life.

It is an initiative to bridge dialogues from their plays as well. The play is an experimental work.

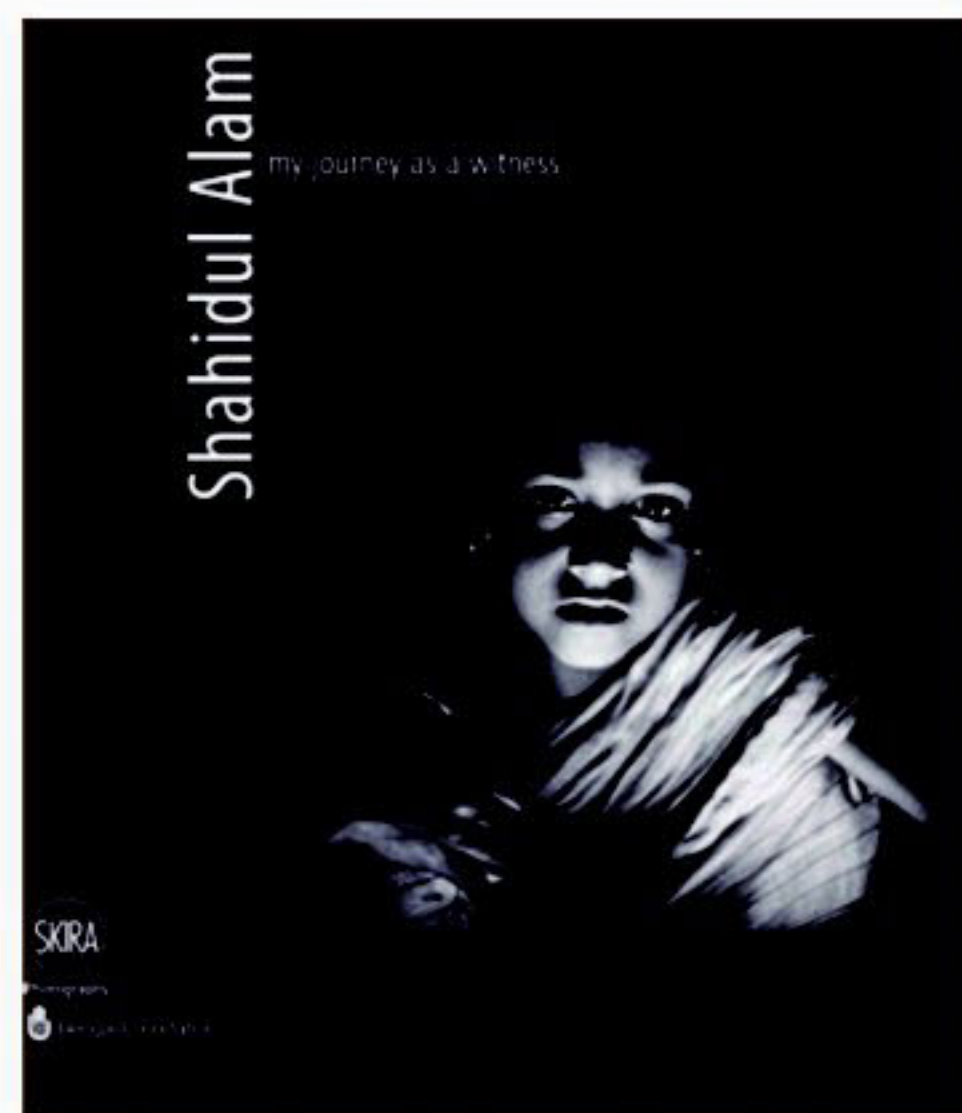
Instead of taking a headline orthodox attitude, the local audience loved such experimentation, especially, on Shakespeare.

According to Rashid, at the festival, all the plays were experimental -- both in form and content. For example, there was an adaptation of "Hamlet", where Ophelia does not die and eventually becomes the queen of Denmark. Referring to Shakespeare, the theatre company in their playbill admitted: "We are not doing 'Hamlet' as you wrote it."

The Bangla Theatre production was in English. Local audience praised the actor's typical Bangladeshi diction, as they termed it a "post-colonial attitude."

About the other interesting side-lights of the festival, Rashid said that a solo concert of Pandit Ravi Shankar was the most impressive experience. "He is in his 90s. But when he started to play there was radiance all over as if he was in his youth. It was a great opportunity for me."

The actor said that he would like to take part in the festival again. "As for our play, we received appreciation, criticism, and hospitality from the Bangladeshi community and a host of new friends," said Rashid.



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Bengal Foundation and Skira Editore (of Milan, Italy) launched their first joint production, "My Journey as a Witness" -- a book of images by celebrated Bangladeshi photographer Dr. Shahidul Alam -- at Bengal Shilpaya, Dhammond, in Dhaka on September 23.

Chief guest at the programme, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, along with special guest, Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Giorgio Guglielmino; Bengal Foundation chairman Abul Khair; International Commissions editor of Skira Editore and editor of "My Journey as a Witness", Rosa Maria Falvo, said the manager of Skira's Asia Pacific region.

Prior to the book launch, director general of Bengal Foundation, Luva Nahid Chowdhury, welcomed the guests and delivered an introductory speech.

"Dr. Shahidul Alam set up the award-winning Drik Picture Library, the Bangladesh Photographic Institute, and Pathshala (the South Asian Media Academy) -- that is considered one of the finest schools of photography in the world. He is the director of 'Chobi Mela', the International Festival of Photography -- an event that continues to play a key

role in connecting Bangladeshi photographers with their counterparts from across the globe. We hope that this book will take Shahidul Alam's mission forward," said Chowdhury. The book is the first of a series of 40 volumes that Skira Editore and Bengal Foundation have agreed to co-publish over the next 10 years. Skira Editore is one of the oldest and most prestigious publishing houses that specialises in fine arts related books. As part of the agreement, a series of high quality books showcasing the artworks of both master and contemporary artists of Bangladesh will be published by Skira. International publishers -- Rizzoli, Random House (New

Dr. Shahidul Alam's "Journey as a Witness"

Photo book launched by Bengal Foundation and Skira Editore



(From left) Giorgio Guglielmino, Rosa Maria Falvo, Nurul Islam Nahid, Dr. Shahidul Alam and Abul Khair at the book launch.

voices. He is a storyteller of an extraordinary, powerful visual art," said Rosa Maria Falvo, also the manager of Skira's Asia Pacific region.

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York) and Thames & Hudson (London) -- are to distribute these books globally.

Founded in 1928 by Albert Skira, Skira Editore's earliest editions are legendary: Ovid's "Metamorphosis", illustrated with 30 original engravings by Pablo Picasso (1930) and "Poésies" by Stéphane Mallarmé, illustrated with 29 original etchings by Henri Matisse (1932). Its first office in Paris became a creative hub. This gave birth to the legendary art review Minotaure, which published the works of numerous icons such as Picasso, Matisse, Salvador Dali, and included the early writings of Jacques Lacan and the photographs of Man Ray and Brassai.



PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

Human rights organisation, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), celebrated its silver jubilee through a two-day programme featuring procession, discussion, musical performances and drama. Internationally renowned Sri Lankan human rights campaigner Sunila Abeyssekera addressed the function as the key speaker at Chayanaud auditorium on September 23, while activists and members of ASK staged the Tagore drama "Tash-er Desh" at Rabindra Sarobar Moncho on the following day.

Classical music evening in Narail Dr. Asit Roy casts a spell



PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

Dr. Asit Roy, Associate Professor, Theatre and Music Department of Rajshahi University, cast a spell on the audience with his performance at a classical music soiree at Narail District Auditorium on September 23.

The event, which saw a large turnout, ran till 11pm. Dr. Aurobindo Banerjee of Sur O Dhoni Sangeet Niketan, Jessore was in the first to perform. He was followed

by Badol Kumar Pramanik of Sruti Shondha Sangeet Niketan, and lastly Dr. Asit Roy performed.

Sruti Shondha Sangeet Niketan and Anandodhara Sangeet Niketan jointly organised the event. Deputy Commissioner, Narail, Zahurul Haque was present at the function as chief guest. Assistant District Magistrate Khondokar Hasnat Tarik nde, Md. Masudul Kabir and Professor Prodyut Bhattacharya, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Subir Nandi performs at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), High Commission of India, Dhaka hosted a musical soiree featuring adhunik (contemporary) songs by noted Bangladeshi artiste Subir Nandi on September 24 at the centre in Gulshan-1.

Trained in classical music by Ustad Babar Ali Khan (of Habiganj), Subir Nandi performs adhunik and folk songs, kirtan and Nazrul Sangeet with equal ease. Nandi gained considerable critical acclaim and recognition for his rendition of the song "Bondhu Hotey Cheye Tomar" (written by Md. Rafiquzzaman in 1975), and earned a place in the hearts of music connoisseurs. He started doing playback in 1974, with the film "Shurjograhan". Nandi won National Film Award (Best Singer) in 1984 for his song in "Mahanayak", and again in 1986 for his song in the film "Shubhoda". His contribution to Bangladesh Betar (radio), TV films, stage shows and the recording industry has been immense.

Subir Nandi's performance at IGCC comprised of a repertoire of adhunik songs, bhajan, thumri and popular Bangla songs of yesteryears. His renditions of songs such as "Oi Mohashindur Opar Theke", "Amar Ei Du 'ti Chokh", "Din Jaye Kotha Thakey", "Ami Brishhir Kachh Theke Kandte Shikhechhi" and more were much appreciated by the full-house. Nandi also sang a popular Sylheti folk song.

The programme was attended by noted cultural personalities and dignitaries. Director of IGCC, Ankan Banerjee, thanked Subir Nandi for the moving performance and hoped that the artiste would perform at IGCC again shortly. Subir Nandi wrapped up with wishing the ailing Indian ghazal maestro Jagjit Singh a speedy recovery.



Writers' conference in Chuadanga

AMANUR AMAN, Kushiya

A daylong writers' conference was held in Chuadanga on Friday.

Writers from various parts of Chuadanga and adjacent districts participated in the conference held at Zehala Union Parishad Complex

in Alamdanga.

Anirban Shahitya Shangshad organised the programme. Poets, authors of children's literature and novelists took part in the event. Mujibul Haq, president of Anirban Shahitya Shangshad, presided over the programme. Iqbal Atahar, a literary personality and also presi-

dent of Chuadanga Shahitya Parishad, was chief guest.

The programme also included reading from books by the participants. Another highlight was a cultural event, which featured folk and baul songs as well as dance performances.

Jagjit Singh's condition critical but stable

Ghazal singer Jagjit Singh, who was admitted to Lilavati Hospital (Mumbai), is recuperating after two life-saving surgeries. Authorities said on Saturday that his condition was critical yet stable, and has to be closely monitored for the next 48 hours.

Industry sources said Singh suffered an intracranial hemorrhagic stroke, or bleeding within the skull. "We were told by the doctors treating him that this kind of bleeding could occur when a blood vessel within the skull is broken or leaking," said a source.

The 70-year-old singer has been ailing from high blood pressure, a known cause for hemorrhagic strokes, for some time now. Singh was rushed to the Lilavati Hospital at 3am on Friday in an unconscious state.

Till Saturday afternoon, Singh was operated on twice by a team of doctors, and the pressure on the skull released.

Hospital authorities declined to comment on

the treatment protocol or his ailment. "Singh has been operated for brain haemorrhage. He is stable. His family would not like to disclose more details," said the spokesperson of Lilavati Hospital. Singh is on ventilator, the spokesperson added.

City doctors said his heart condition could have a remote connection with the stroke. In 1998, Singh suffered a heart attack following which, doctors believe, he may be on blood thinners that could cause bleeding.

Industry sources say that earlier in 2007 too, Singh had to be hospitalised following blood circulation issues.

Singers Anup Jalota and Ghulam Ali visited Singh at the hospital. Singh and his singer wife Chitra shot to limelight in the '70s with their ghazals. He went on to win the Padma Bhushan award in 2003.

SOURCE: INTERNET



Elton John's life to get big screen treatment

Sir Elton John's life is to be turned into "a radically different kind of biopic," reports LA website Deadline. "Rocketman" will see the singer and his Rocket Pictures partner David Furnish join forces with Billy Elliot author Lee Hall, who will write the script.

Steve Hamilton Shaw, who will produce with Furnish, promised the film would be "as unique as Elton's life." He promised it would "transport people through the many intense experiences... that helped define Elton." "Rocketman" marks the second collaboration between Sir Elton and Hall. The singer wrote the award-winning score for the musical adaptation of "Billy Elliot". Plans for the film include

the use of musical sequences, centred on Sir Elton's hit songs, to tell the story of the child prodigy who became a global star.

Sir Elton will executive produce the film, and will oversee casting -- with speculation that it could involve several actors playing the lead role, in a manner similar to his video for the single "This Train Don't Stop There Anymore" in 2002.

Recent biopics of contemporary musicians include "No where Boy", about John Lennon, and "I'm Not There", based on the life of Bob Dylan.

A film about the life of Queen frontman Freddie Mercury is currently being written by Peter Morgan, with Sacha Baron Cohen in the lead role.

SOURCE: BBC

ATN BANGLA	01:25 Chalcitra-er Galpo	09:25 Marriage Chitra Bichitra
04:20 Matir Subash	05:15 Aaynar Shamney	10:02 Bangla Feature Film
08:40 Shimama Chharye	09:20 Drama Serial: Parapar	06:30 Sholi
Rtv	12:10 Bangla Feature Film	09:52 Nayeder Pathshala
05:00 Cinema R Gaan	06:00 Drama Serial: Jekhane Shimanto	09:30 Kingkorthobblmur
08:20 Drama Serial: Shaat	06:20 Drama Serial: Shaat	11:00 Maasranga Unplugged
09:50 Bridal Show	06:20 Punusher Dhaka	Z Studio
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan	06:20 Jibon Jekhane Jemon	01:30 Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End
06:00 Andromeda	09:35 Drama Serial: Jogajog	05:10 Meet the Fockers
12:00 Aker Shangbadpatro	05:20 Marksman	07:40 Friday the 13th: A New Beginning
BANGLAVISION	08:00 Street Fighter	09:30 Under the Tuscan Sun
		11:50 The Count of Monte Cristo

abc radio FM 89.2	12:00 My Time
09:00 Mukhonto Jibony	01:00 No Tension
12:00 Durun Dupurey	04:00 Dhaka Calling
03:00 Duranta Bileky	09:00 Night Rider
05:00 Shomdhara	01:00 Back to Back music
07:00 Shajer Moya	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
09:00 Raat-er Akashey	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
11:00 Golper Shesh Nei	12:00 Today's Adda
Radio Foorti	04:00 U Turn
10:00 Morning Express	07:00 Today Tai Hok
	10:00 Raat Shor Gaan

Matir Shubash
On ATN BANGLA at 04:20pm
Agricultural Programme
Directed by Nabuyat Rahman

Repo Men
On HBO at 09:30pm
Genre: Action/Crime
Cast: Jude Law, Forest Whitaker

No Problem
On ATN BANGLA at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Kishan Koraish, Nollan

01:05 Bangla Feature Film
05:20 Porukha Prototi
11:25 Prokash Mela
12:25 Cinemar Gaan

04:00 Desh Janopod
04:30 Durpath
06:30 Desh Top Chat
09:45 Ke Hote Chay Kotipoti
12:30 Total Sports

10:30 Bangla Feature Film
04:15 Shorashori Doctor
05:30 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan
10:50 Reporters Diary
11:30 Boishakhi Samakshi O Binodan Sangbad

Diganta TV
12:30 Score Cards
03:30 World Round Up
05:30 Suphala Bangladesh
08:00 Drama Serial: Quick

08:45 Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li
10:25 Second In Command
HBO
03:00 Matchstick Men
05:25 The Usual Suspects
07:40 Semi-Pro
09:30 Bones
11:50 Kull the Conqueror

Star World
03:30 Cops
07:30 India's Most Desirable
09:30 Master Chef Australia
10:30 Bones
12:00 Home Improvement
National Geographic Channel
02:30 Mega Factors
06:30 Great Migrations
08:30 Dog Whisperer
09:30 Nat Geo Wild
11:30 World's Toughest Fives

Discovery Channel
02:30 Man vs. Wild
08:30 Dual Survival
10:30 Man Woman Wild
Antanonical Travellagues

ATN BANGLA	08:15pm No Problem
08:00pm Adorsho Mess Bari	07:00pm Long March
10:55pm Uttardahikar	06:30pm Desh TV
Rtv	07:45pm Gahney
09:05pm Boyra Paribar	08:15pm Sat Kalon
11:30pm Rangser Shongshar	Boishakhi TV
CHANNEL i	08:10pm Ecarner Dana
07:50pm Shokal Shondha Raat	08:45pm Tokhon Hemanta
BANGLAVISION	Maasranga Television

RTV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm, Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 7:30pm, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm, News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm, News (English) at 6:00pm
CHANNEL-i	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	RTV	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	NEWS BANGLA	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm, 1:00am
Rtv	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am	ETV	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

TALK SHOW			
ATN BANGLA		12:30pm Taroka Kothon	
11:15am	Vision 2020	BANGLAVISION	
11:30pm	Je Kotha Kea Bolei	06:25pm	Front Line
12:30am	Lead News	Desh TV	
Rtv		11:45pm	Shoja Kotha
10:40am	Tanoklap	Boishakhi TV	
07:40pm	Our Democracy	12:00am	Zero Hour
CHANNEL i		Maasranga Television	
09:45am	Trisho Matra	07:30pm	Prime Issue