

WHAT'S ON

Exhibition
Featuring Life and Works of
Mishuk Munier
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre,
Dharmondi
Date: July 22-31

Theatre
Play: Libaboti Akhyan
Troupe: Loko Natya Dal
Venue: Experimental Theatre
Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 27

Theatre
Play: Raju... eong Onayog
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 25
Time: 7-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Sonarog: Prints & Paintings
Artist: Pishanta Karmakar Baidya
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, H-7,
R-13 New, Dharmondi
Date: July 12-24
Time: 12pm-8pm

Film Screening
Film: The Scarlet Flower (Pary
Tale)
Venue: Auditorium, Russian
Centre of Science & Culture,
Dharmondi
Date: July 28

War and Peace
Film: War and Peace (Part 1)
Venue: Auditorium, Russian Centre
of Science & Culture, Dharmondi
Date: September 9
Time: 6pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Heavy Metal
Artist: Dr. Lambert Shambhu
Venue: Bengali Art Lounge, 60,
Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka
Date: July 12-29
Time: 12-9pm

Coin Exhibition
Venue: Nalini Kanto
Bhattacharya Hall, National
Museum, Shahbagh
Date: July 10-25
Time: 10:30am-8pm

A TWILIGHT INTERVIEW
Humayun Ahmed on his last film Ghetu Putro Komola

This interview was taken a year back, during the last Ramadan, by Shah Alam Shazu at Nuhash Polli. Humayun Ahmed spent an evening talking to the correspondent on his last movie which was taking more time than usual. Excerpts from the interview:

If you ask a person who is related to films about the characteristics of films, he would define it into 50 different aspects, such as horror, social drama and more. However, I wouldn't do the same.

I cannot define "Ghetu Putro Komola". The way I have made previous movies, it will be no different. Maybe it will be error free maybe not, I am not concerned.

My intention is to capture a tradition of rural Bengal on celluloid. I have chosen the "haor" area of Bangladesh which is flooded during monsoon and dry as a desert in winter. This movie should create a stir even among foreign audiences when they watch the same area inundated at times and dry the next season. For this we had to use special reference points and lens.

It has taken a bit of time to make the movie. More so, as I could not collect all the required props in due time. Some we had to collect on our own. We now have a large trunk in which we have gathered a huge amount of props.

Sets have been designed at Nuhash Polli. However, the outdoor shooting will be done in the Sunamganj area where the Ghetu songs had originated. The music composed earlier had to be changed as it did not fit into the scenes -- that took away some time as well.

Even the man behind the camera had to be replaced, since at one point I felt that he wasn't able to grasp the essence. So, you see, such drastic changes took more time to complete the movie.

Shaon is expecting but is always beside me and cheering me up. This is also a reason for the delay of the movie. When I am thoroughly exhausted, a cup of steaming tea is a big thing. The shooting during the night was rather comfortable. My initial idea was to make the film on my own, and I have spent a lot of money. But now I am on the lookout for a producer which is not that easy, as you would know.

Technically we aren't that backward but when it comes to post-production work, we are far behind. I do print the films abroad. We use similar lens that the filmmakers do



Visions of a world now lost to time.

abroad. However, we cannot spend the huge amount of money that they can afford to do. Even our market is limited. Tareq Anam will play the protagonist. The set designed at Nuhash Polli has been

done under my direction. It has been designed according to the lifestyle of an influential person of the village. "Ghetu Putro" has a background. Almost 150 years ago, a musical trend swept through

Jolshukha village of Hobiganj. Ghetu songs were known for their traditional tunes, but what set them apart was the dancing by Ghetu performers -- adolescent boys dressed as girls. The dance of these young performers

was responsible for Ghetu songs' sexual overtones. This perversion in the name of folk music is no more. With it, a rather strange ritual is lost. The movie is set for release in October.

PHOTO: SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Seeking self-identity in a global world

50th show of Shylock and Sycophants staged



As the play draws to an end, Sekandar's father-- now a departed soul-- contacts him through high-tech equipment and tells him to re-think his own identity.

JAMIL MAHMUD

What can an individual do if he has no past? Can he recall his beautiful old days? What if he is cautioned that each emotional second will reduce money from his bank account? A fantasy indeed, but Shahzad Ferdous' text "Shylock and Sycophants" counts such imaginary helplessness of an individual-- seeking his self-identity in the time period, when globalisation is a talked about phenomenon.

The play that premiered a couple of years earlier saw its 50th show on July 19 at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Azad Abul Kalam of Prachyanat directed the play, in which he also played an important character, a middle class individual with strong morality.

Theatrewala Repertory has produced the play and its chief Hasan Shahriar is the protagonist-- Sekandar. Sekandar sells his 'past' to a corporate giant Shylock. In return, he receives a huge amount of money and the promise of a certain life. Things should go well, but somehow he starts to feel that money can't buy life. His father (Azad Abul Kalam) rebukes him for selling his past. Sekandar apparently denies his identity, more specifically, he denies his birth, childhood, parents, etc.

We see a helpless Sekandar, as his wife (Reetu A Sattar) and his assistant (Kazi Toufique Islam) both

provoke him to achieve more, while his father rebukes him repeatedly. As the play draws to an end, Sekandar's father-- now a departed soul-- contacts him through high-tech equipment and tells him to re-think his own identity.

As it was a landmark show, the troupe chose to stage the play at the Experimental Theatre Hall. Otherwise, the play usually saw its regular staging at the Studio Theatre Hall of the academy.

Deepak Suman of Aranyak played the other important role. The stage was decorated with props like products of global brands, more than that, the backdrop was designed as something like a time travel machine, a bullet train in which Sekandar travelled with the sycophants of Shylock and signed his agreement of selling the 'past'. A poster featuring a child sealed with logos of global brands was another element from the props list. It conveys a strong message relevant to the play's core objective.

At the end of the play, a small celebration took place at the venue. Selected members from different theatre troupes came to the stage and formally congratulated the cast and crew.

"Shylock and Sycophants" is Theatrewala's debut production. It is an initiative to see a professional attitude in local theatre, as performers have been receiving a certain amount of remuneration after each show.

Table with TV and radio program listings for ATN Bangla, ntv, ETV, Boishakhi TV, and RADIO.

Table with radio program listings for abc radio FM 89.2, 96.00, 98.00, 99.00, 100.00, 101.00, 102.00, 103.00, 104.00, 105.00, 106.00, 107.00, 108.00, 109.00, 110.00.

Modhryaater Train
On Maasranga Television at 11:00pm
Thriller Story
Host: Mridul Ahmed

In The Line of Fire
On Fox Movies at 08:55pm
Genre: Action/Crime
Cast: Clint Eastwood, John Malkovich

Chaichhi Tomar Bondhuta
On Desh TV at 09:45pm
Special Talk Show
Host: Abdulh Al Mamun

Table with TV and radio program listings for Gtv, BANGLAVISION, Fox Movies, Rtv, Desh TV, Diganta TV, and BANGLAVISION.

Table with TV and radio program listings for ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ntv, ETV, Boishakhi TV, CHANNEL 24, BANGLAVISION.

Table with TV and radio program listings for NEWS BULLETIN and TALK SHOW.

Elton John tops UK album chart for first time in 22 years



Elton John performs during a concert as part of his "Greatest hits Live 2012" world tour in Bratislava, Slovakia on July 10, 2012.

Elton John has scored his first number one album in 22 years, an electronic reworking of his hit songs, while Florence and the Machine clung to top spot in the singles chart for a second week running, the Official UK Charts Company said on Sunday.

John teamed up with Australian electronic duo DNau for "Good Morning to the Night", giving his 70s catalogue a modern summer vibe. The album's title is also the name of the lead track, which has become an official song of the London Olympics.



Hilary Swank to star in film for BBC

Oscar-winning actress Hilary Swank is to star alongside Brenda Blethyn in a BBC film written by Richard Curtis.

Mary & Martha is about two mothers who lose their children to malaria and are compelled to raise awareness of the disease.

The film will be shown in the run-up to next year's Red Nose Day, which will raise money for disadvantaged people in the UK and Africa.

Curtis is best known for such films such as Four Weddings and a Funeral, Notting Hill and Love Actually.

Mary & Martha will be directed by Phillip Noyce, whose credits include Salt, Patriot Games and The Quiet American.

Robi organises stakeholder event in Chittagong

ARUN BIKASH DEVY, Chittagong

Robi Axiata Limited, a leading telecom operator of the country, organised a stakeholder relationship event in the port city on Thursday evening which rounded off with a cultural programme.

Popular singer Anghi Alamgir entertained the guests with modern and local songs. Anghi started her music rendition with one of her popular songs "Ei raat eto bhalo laageni aage" written by her mother. Anghi said, Udit Narayan, a popular singer of Indian subcontinent, was the vocalist of this song along with her, in one of her albums.

rendition with a popular local song "Oore shampanwala tui amare korli devana". Speaking at the event at a local hotel in the city, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of Robi Michael Kuehner said Robi has enhanced its service in Chittagong region by improving its network and customer services.

Terming Chittagong the hometown of Robi the CEO said Chittagong region remains as the centre point of Robi's operation and growth.

With the theme 'Anr Shahore Robi', the programme was attended by heads of different corporate organisations and leading personalities in the port city.

Chief human resources officer of Robi Matuil Islam Nowshad, chief financial officer Mahtabuddin Ahmed, chief strategy officer Yoshishige Hasegawa and chief technical officer AKM Morshed were present among others at the programme.



Anghi Alamgir sings at the programme.

Aiming high Tête-à-Tête with Jotika Joti...

A CORRESPONDENT

Actress Jotika Joti is busy with shoots almost every day. Half a dozen plays in which she features are currently being aired on various TV channels. And she is now shooting for another half a dozen! She has also started working in plays for the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr. Channel 24 has just started telecasting a new serial "Jadur Shohor," featuring Joti.

Recently, Joti chatted with The Daily Star about the play and other ventures.

Tell us about Jadur Shohor. Jotika: Nurul Alam Atik, a nationally acclaimed director, has directed this serial. The name of my character is Munia who is a co-actress in films. She has to struggle a lot and chase after assistant directors in the hope of getting a good role. The character is quite interesting.

Where was the shooting held? Jotika: The shootings were held in different locations like Shirajgonj and Dhaka. Most of our shoots were outdoors.

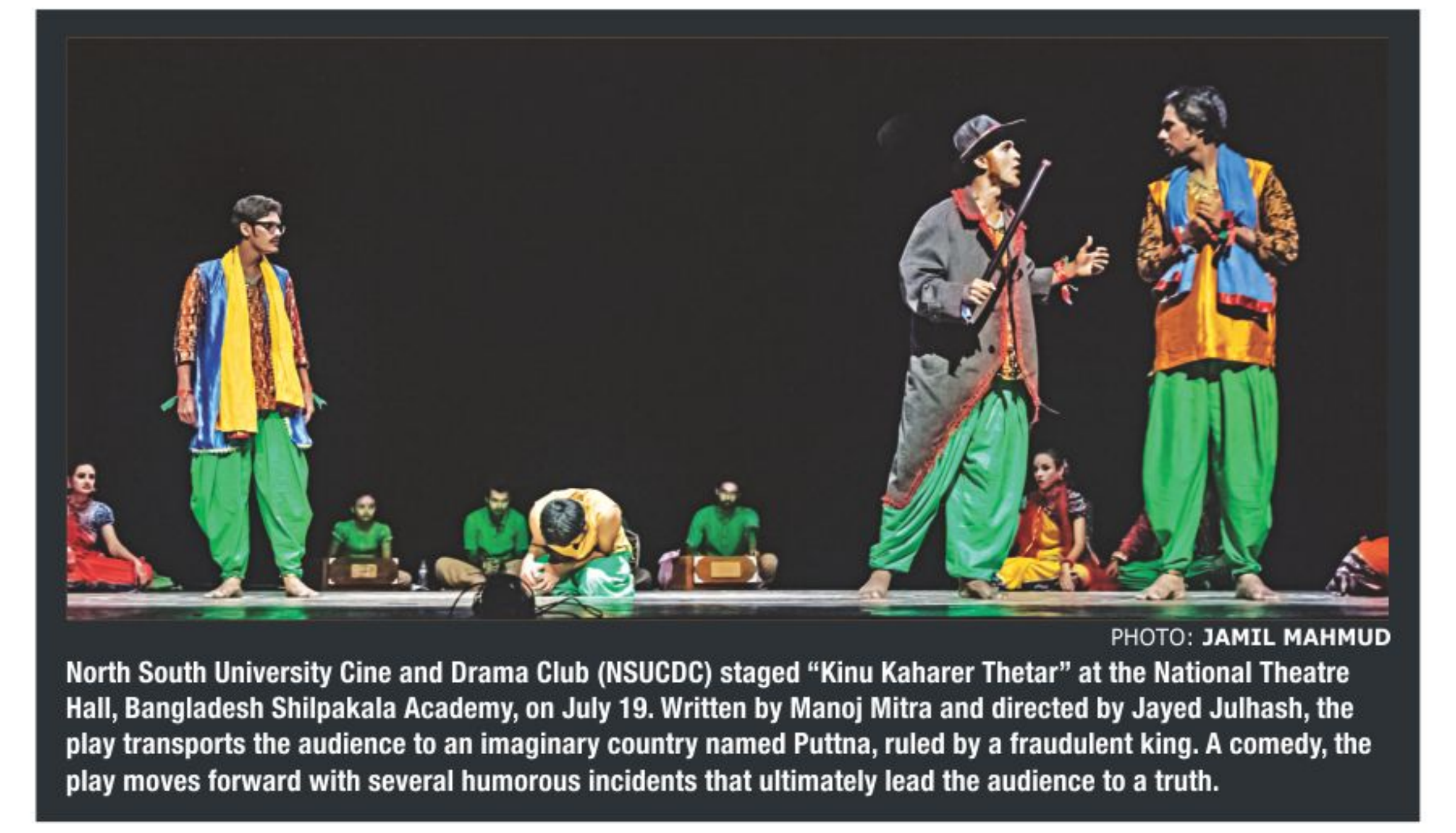
Which of your other plays are being aired at present? Jotika: ATN Bangla is airing "Palabar Path Nai", RTV is telecasting "College Road". There are also other plays like "Rongila" on ETV, "Apon Apon Khela" on Channel 9, "Agnipath" on Boishakhi TV, and "Himgirite Jhora Palok" on GTV.

Any new serials up your sleeves? Jotika: Yes, I am working in Habib Masud's "Bela Obelar Golpo", Imran Imu's "Kutum Pakhi", Idrish Haider's "Ranga Ma", and Kaiser Ahmed's "Mohan Bashi". Apart from these, I am also shooting for a number of one-hour plays.

Does quality get compromised since you work in many serials simultaneously? Jotika: Yes, I am. A number of my movies have already been released including "Aaina" and "Rabeya". I have just finished "Bedeni" where I play the role of a gypsy girl. Abul Kalam Azad has directed the movie.



PHOTO: HUMITRA



North South University Cine and Drama Club (NSUCDC) staged "Kinu Kaharer Thetar" at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on July 19. Written by Manoj Mitra and directed by Jayed Julhash, the play transports the audience to an imaginary country named Putina, ruled by a fraudulent king. A comedy, the play moves forward with several humorous incidents that ultimately lead the audience to a truth.

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

