

WHAT'S ON

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

Fashion Exhibition
Title: Colour of Festival
Organiser: Fashion Hub Bangladesh
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dharamondi
Date: July 27-Aug 10
Time: 5pm-8pm

Theatre Festival
Organiser: Swapnadal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: August 1-6
Time: 7:30pm

Theatre
Play: Tanged Plateau
Written & Directed by: Mamun Rashed
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: August 9-11
Time: 7:30pm

Theatre
Play: Rakshita
Troupe: Desh Natok
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: August 5

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

Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan
Date: August 3
Time: 7:30-9:30pm

Theatre
Play: Bangla Mati Bangla Ji
Troupe: Paklar
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: August 6
Time: 7:30pm

The unfamiliar that is all too familiar



Humayun Ahmed (4-R) on the set of "Kothao Keu Nei".

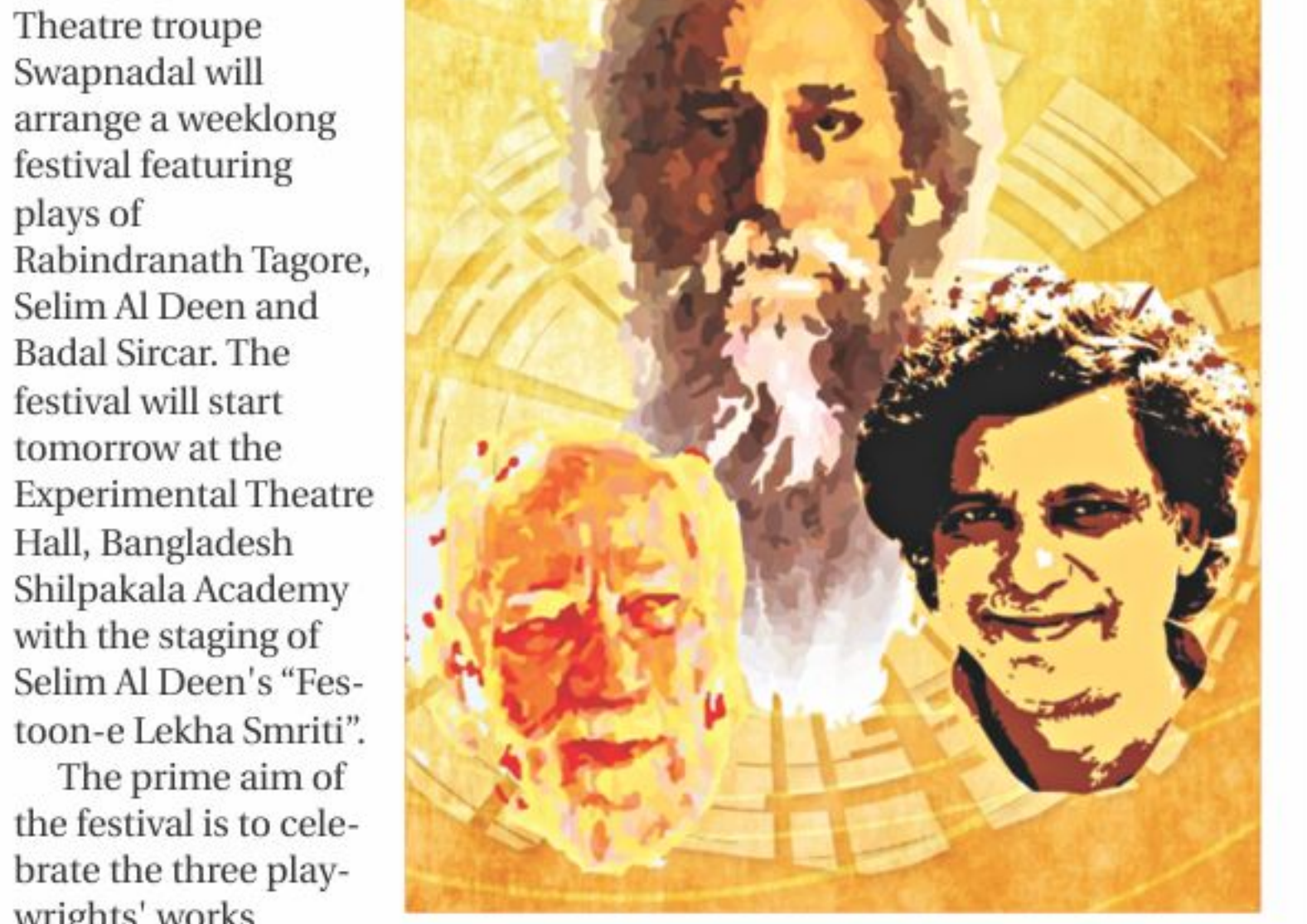
KARIM WAHEED

Couple of days post Humayun Ahmed's demise, BTB aired one of his plays. The play, "Nimphool", was first aired in 1997. Set in a typical Bangladeshi village, the story begins with a mob approaching the home of the headman, ably played by Abul Hayat. A notorious bandit has been caught. The smart-mouthed outlaw, deftly played by Asaduzzaman Noor, and his young son receive generous beatings from the mob. As happens with crazed mobs almost everywhere across the world, logical reasoning is banished, and it's decided that the bandit will have to lose his eyes as punishment for his crimes. Humanity emerges in the form of the headman's daughter, who provides water and food to the bandit's young son -- a

child who is already being treated like a criminal by the society. As the whole village rejoices the imminent eye gouging with festivity, the headman's daughter -- consummately played by Sheela Ahmed -- begs her father to stop this madness. The bandit should go to jail, she says. He is a criminal but his eyes haven't committed a crime. It may sound like a sombre plot, but Ahmed in his characteristic all-encompassing fashion maintained a flow that makes the audience laugh, shed a few tears and most importantly, think. Mob violence is not something new. We read about it, and many of us have actually seen it firsthand. How many people remember the two young girls -- Shumi and Piya -- beaten up by a mob for stealing food last year? How many tried to the stop those who had morphed into unconscionable beasts? Humayun Ahmed's stories and plays attained this incomprehensible popularity because they crossed the border of fiction/magic realism/mystery. His stories were mirrors and we saw ourselves, our greatness and our flaws in them. We saw that our mundane existence wasn't all that mundane when we could let go of our worries for a while and get drenched in rain, willingly. He had this ability to show us the unfamiliar, which is all too familiar. On an unrelated note, classic TV shows, sitcoms and soap operas are continually re-airing, "Friends" for example. BTB produced Ahmed's most popular serials -- "Eishob Dintrati", "Oyomoy" and "Bohubrihi". Can it not bring these gems out of its vault and start re-airing them?

Theatre festival on Rabindranath, Al Deen, Badal Sircar begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Theatre troupe Swapnadal will arrange a weeklong festival featuring plays of Rabindranath Tagore, Selim Al Deen and Badal Sircar. The festival will start tomorrow at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy with the staging of Selim Al Deen's "Festoon-e Lekha Smriti". The prime aim of the festival is to celebrate the three playwrights' works through recalling their anniversaries. August 6 is the 71st death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, August 18 is the 63rd birth anniversary of Selim Al Deen and July 15 was Badal Sircar's 87th birth anniversary. Apart from marking these dates, the organisers along with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will commemorate Hiroshima Day on August 6 as well. Plays to be staged at the festival are "Festoon-e Lekha Smriti", "Hargoj", "Putra" and "Nimajan" by Al Deen; "Chitrangada" by Rabindranath and "Tringsha Shatabdi" by Sircar. The plays will be staged by organising troupe Swapnadal and invited troupes Dhaka Theatre and Shilpakala Academy. Apart from staging plays, a seminar on the three playwrights and a commemorative discussion on Hiroshima Day will be held. Ramendu Majumdar, worldwide president of ITI will inaugurate the festival. The festival will be held at the Experimental Theatre Hall except, on August 4. Programmes will be held at the Studio Theatre Hall on that particular day. A press conference regarding the festival took place yesterday at the Seminar Hall of Shilpakala Academy. Among others, Zahid Ripon, chief of Swapnadal spoke at the press conference.

"Lux-Channel i Superstar" as a launching pad In conversation with Rakhi

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

A number of aspiring young actresses who were launched through the "Lux Channel i Superstar" talent hunt, are now busy in the media. These artistes have all the potential to carve out successful careers and may well dominate the media by dint of their talent and hard work. Rakhi is firmly in this category. Though most people are not familiar with her name yet, chances are, they have seen her TV commercials. A commercial of Close Up 1, which is now being aired frequently on different channels, has already caught people's attention. This work has helped Rakhi to cement her career as a model.

The most talked about commercial featuring Rakhi is that of Ceylon Tea. A jingle of this commercial, "...Moyna pakhtii kotha bolbe, cholon chhade jaoa jaak", has become quite popular. Apart from this, Rakhi has also been featured in TV commercials for Meril Lip Gel, Elite Paint and Parachute Hair Oil. Rakhi stepped into the media only a few years ago. A winner in the "Lux Channel i Superstar" contest in 2010, she has never looked back since. Now she is a busy model, actor and TV host. She has hosted a TV show named "Lux Drama.com".

Rakhi is continuing her studies as well. She is now a student of A Level. In addition to her career in the media, Rakhi dreams of soaring in the skies as a pilot. How was her experience in the "Lux Channel i Superstar" contest? Pat comes the answer: "Actually, I am short of words. That was the best moment of my life. And it is because of that platform that I did not have to struggle too much to make a place in the media."

A number of TV dramas, featuring Rakhi have already been aired on different channels. Her first play was "Bishoy", written by Bipasha Hayat and directed by Taquir Ahmed. Her second play was "Aronno Monjuri" directed by Abul Hayat. "Terminal", a serial featuring Rakhi is currently being aired on ntv. Banglavisision is airing Eaj Munna's "Generation Next". Other plays, featuring Rakhi include: Khalilur Rahman Shaon's "Dost Dushman", Shokal Ahmed's "Shongshar", Choyonika Chowdhury's "Bichchhed", Saiful Islam Mannu's "Forgive Me", Mithu Biswas' "Chole Jawa Maane Prostan Noy", Jamal Mollik's "Shorti Bolchi Ami Chandu Mia Na", Shahin Kabir Tutul's "Honda Masud", Rakibul Islam's "Shomoshsha", and Jobayer Bokor's "Hir".

At this moment she is pre-occupied with her Eid projects. When asked, what she dreams of doing, Rakhi says, "I dream of being a sought after actress, that's all!"



All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

Table with TV schedules for ATN Bangla, Channel 9, ETV, and Radio stations like Morning Express, No Tension, Dhaka Calling, Knight Riders, RADIO TODAY FM 88.5, Good Morning Dhaka, Today's Adda, U Turn, Robey Jit Huk, Bad Star Gaan, Hatum Pecha.

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

Ocean's Twelve On HBO at 11:45pm Genre: Crime/Thriller Cast: George Clooney, Brad Pitt & Julia Roberts

Modhyaer Train On Maaranga Television at 11:00pm Thriller Story Host: Mirul Ahmed

Conceptual installation at Britto



Leonardiansyah Allenda and Prithivi Shrestha (below) work at Britto Studio.

Guest artists Leonardiansyah Allenda from Indonesia and Prithivi Shrestha from Nepal displayed their installations at an exhibition, titled "Britto International Artist's Residency 2012" on July 26 and 27 at the Britto Art Trust on Green Road in Dhaka. The visiting artists displayed the installations that they created after arriving in Dhaka on June 29 to participate at the month-long residency workshop. Allenda's installation featured intertwining multicoloured threads from handloom made of household materials like bicycle and drill machine. The artist used many colourful bundles of stitches confronting the environment. Shrestha is a visual artist from Nepal. He has already participated in exhibitions in Bangladesh, Nepal, Dubai and Japan. Allenda completed his BFA in sculpture in 2008 from Bandung Institute of Technology in Jakarta. He has participated in many group exhibitions and art fairs. To date, Britto has worked with numerous international artists from countries including India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Japan, Maldives, Hong Kong, France, Germany, UK, Pakistan, Myanmar, Mexico, Uganda, Australia, Fiji Islands, Mauritius, Jordan, Egypt, South Africa, Taiwan and Indonesia. Britto has also sent a number of Bangladeshi artists to work abroad.

Olympics soundtrack races into British charts

REUTERS, London

London's 2012 Olympics opening ceremony raced into the British charts on Sunday with a collection of music from the kaleidoscopic extravaganza becoming the week's fifth-best selling compilation album after just 24 hours on sale. Friday's 27 million pound (\$42 million) "Isles of Wonder" spectacle, devised by filmmaker Danny Boyle and watched around the globe, was performed to a roller coaster of British music that ran from Mike Oldfield's blockbuster "Tubular Bells" to Dizzee Rascal's 2009 hit "Bonkers". Elgar's "Nimrod" Enigma Variation shared the Olympic Stadium's stage with Sheffield rockers Arctic Monkeys and British electronic duo Underworld, who were music directors of the event. All feature on the anthology, which had sold 10,000 copies by the sales cut-off time on Saturday, enough to make it fifth in the compilation album charts, which are separate from the main album rankings, the Official Charts Company said. The week's best-selling album, "Ill Manors" from London singer Plan B, brought another Olympic connection to the charts as it topped the rankings on its debut. "The album is the soundtrack for a low budget crime film of the same title written and directed by Plan B - under the name Ben Drew - set in the run-down London area of Newham which includes the Olympic Stadium in its boundary. English rock band Florence and the Machine held on to the top spot in the singles charts with "Spectrum".



Arctic Monkeys performs at the Summer 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Prakash Jha: Crusading director

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Politics and film director Prakash Jha has seldom been separated. During a career spanning 27 years, Jha has made films on feudalism and politics of muscle and money power like his debut work "Damul", "Gangajal", "Aapahaaran" and "Rajneeti". And now he has turned his attention to the issue of Maoism, which has hit several parts of India, in his next project "Chakravayuh". When Jha made "Damul" in the mid-1970s, his focus was on exploitation of bonded labourers in an out and out feudal set-up in a village in his home state of Bihar. Jha at that time was truly a social-realist artist with no ingredients of Bollywood. Over the years, his political view has evolved along with the changing political scenario in India and so has his strategy as a filmmaker. In directing "Damul", 60-year-old Jha did not have an eye on the box office but lately he has become conscious of its importance. It has a lot to do with his view of the changed political scenario in India. In an interview he said that until the 1990s, the political system was run by the upper and middle classes and after that backward and lower caste people began getting a share of the political system and consequently the power structure. However, as "Gangajal" shows, what matters is not caste but the story of exploitation by the ruling class cutting across castes. The film shows when leaders from backward castes get a taste of the ruling political system and power, they do not hesitate to exploit it to the hilt by using money and muscle power. "The root cause for social unrest is primarily our feudal mindset which creates systems to benefit a few and exploit the rest. Our democracy begins and ends with an election. The problem with democracy is that unless it has equal participation by everybody in the real sense, it does not work." Jha told a newspaper in an interview. According to him, the tribals-turned-Maoists "feel left out from development process as they have no access to a better life. The backlash, pointed out Jha, started in Naxalbari in West Bengal when the tribals could not get the land that was theirs. According to Jha, Maoism appears to be spreading from impoverished villages to the industry in urban areas and educated people from universities like Jawaharlar Nehru University in Delhi and universities in Mumbai, Nagpur and Osmania are being recruited for the Maoist movement. "My concern is that this movement is coming to our neighbourhood. And so,



if this discontent comes to Dharavi (Asia's largest slum cluster in Mumbai), how will you save Mumbai? -- questioned Jha.

Eid Delights Innovative "Ittyadi"

A CORRESPONDENT

A wholesome family-oriented TV show, "Ittyadi", with innovative ideas, conveys social messages and generates awareness among the masses all with a dash of entertainment. Special episodes of "Ittyadi" during Eid bring up interesting choreography which adds to the extravaganza. The audience is usually treated to a variation in the dance presentation. In the upcoming Eid episode, noted TV personality and director of the programme, Hanif Sanket has chalked out a dance performance by popular stars Monalisa, Momo, Munmun, Meem and Parika. Around 50 dancers will perform along with them. The dance has been choreographed by Shohag. Every year the Eid special dance adds a bit of colour to the entire show with its variation. The choreography will be a fusion of classical and modern composition.



Young composer Azizur Rahman Tinku along with a group of talented young singers will lend their voice to the number. According to Faguan Uddin Vision the dancers have put in their best and hope to put up a show that will please the audience.

Beetle Baily comic strip by Mort Walker and Henry comic strip by Don Tranchte.

Table with Drama Serial schedules for ATN Bangla, Desh TV, ETV, Channel 9, and BTV.

Table with News Bulletin schedules for BTV, Desh TV, ETV, and Channel 9.

Table with Talk Show schedules for ATN Bangla, Channel 9, ETV, and BTV.