

Humayun Ahmed and Tareque Masud recalled in Faridpur



REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

As a mark of respect to recently deceased writer Humayun Ahmed and gifted film director Tareque Masud, Faridpur Sahitya Parishad (FSP) held a memorial meeting on August 9 at their premises in the town. Acclaimed photographer Nasir Ali Mamun and Sayeed Masud, younger brother of Tareque were present as the chief discussants. Professor M. A Samad presided over the programme. Language veteran Dr. Noni Gopal Saha, said that both Humayun and Tareque Masud were worthy sons of the country. Their departure has created a vacuum. Nasir Ali Mamun said, Humayun Ahmed was unparalleled for his contribution to Bengali literature. His unique creations are a milestone for us. The entire nation mourns his untimely departure, he added. Sayeed Masud said, "It is difficult to accept that Tareque Masud is no more. His creativity as filmmaker was extraordinary. Both Humayun Ahmed and

Tareque Masud were trail blazers in their respective art forms," he added. Professor Altaf Hossain, a close associate of Humayun said, "Humayun Ahmed was a humanitarian which is very rare in society today." Among others, veteran journalist Jagodish Chandra Ghosh, professor ABM Sattar, Professor Md. Shajahan, veteran cultural personality Anjoli Bala, Munshi Harun ur Rashid, president Faridpur Sangbadik Sangstha, Mafiz Imann Milon, secretary of FSP Arif Islam, secretary of Faridpur Press club spoke on the occasion. "Amra Himur Dal" a group of Humayun fans exhibited photographs and books on Ahmed and Masud on the occasion. Humayun Ahmed, the noted writer and playwright died at Bellevue Hospital in New York City, United States on July 19, 2012 after an 11-month struggle against colorectal cancer. Meanwhile Tareque met an untimely death caused by a tragic road accident on August 13, 2011 while returning to Dhaka after visiting location of his next film "Kagojer Phul".

Discussants at the programme. PHOTO: STAR

Old Motor Vehicle Act cannot check accidents

Morshedul Islam, Tareque's wife Catherine Masud, Mishuk Munier's wife Monjuli Kazi, painter Dhali Al Mamun's wife Dilara Zaman Jolly, actress Rokeya Prachi, Tareque-Mishuk Smriti Parshad members Iquebal Ahmed Kochi and Bomkesh Sarker addressed the meeting. Filmmaker Nasiruddin Yousuff said a permanent sculpture at the accident spot would be built. He urged the government to help build the sculpture there. After the memorial meeting, the memorial plaque built by Tareque-Mishuk Smriti Parshad was unveiled. Noted filmmaker Tareque Masud and media personality Ashfaq Munier and their film production

crew Wasim, Jamal and microbus driver Mostafizur Rahman died in a road crash on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Joka under Ghor upazila in Manikganj on August 13. Tareque's wife Catherine Masud, painter Dhali Al Mamun, his wife Dilara Zaman Jolly and film production staff Saiful Islam were injured in the accident. The team was on its way to meet the Manikganj deputy commissioner for permission to shoot Tareque's latest project "Kagojer Phul" after visiting a shooting spot at Shaljana village in Shibhalaya upazila. A Chuadanga-bound bus from Dhaka collided with the microbus traveling to Manikganj town.



Catherine Masud and others unveil memorial plaque. PHOTO: STAR

Tareque's dream project Kagojer Phul

A call from Shaljana villagers

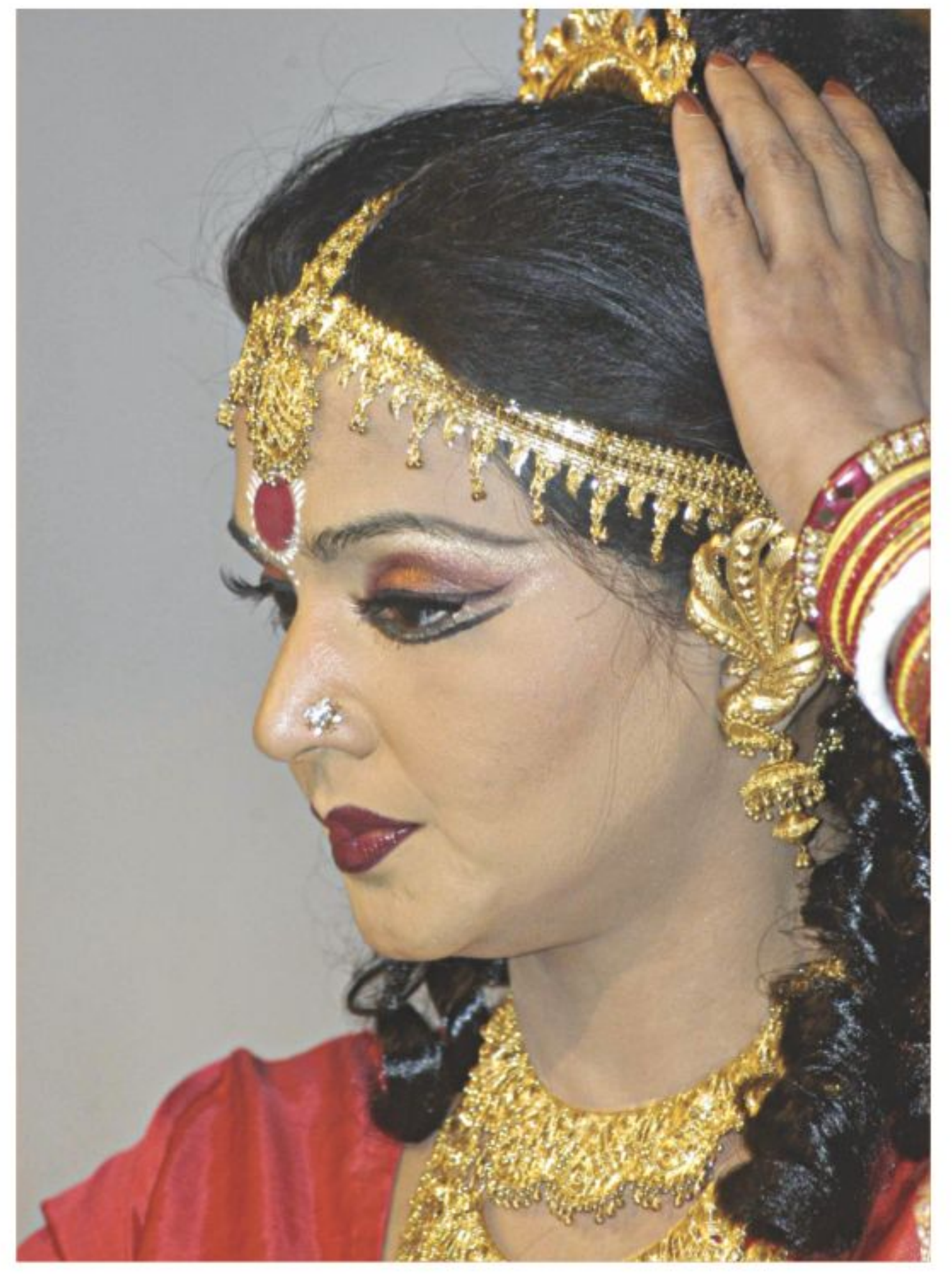
Denizens of Shaljana village have called for Tareque's last project "Kagojer Phul" to be shot there as the locale was chosen by the late director. The villagers have fond memories of Tareque and his production team who went to Shaljana several times. Tareque along with Mishuk Munier and others met with a tragic accident on the Dhaka-Aricha highway on their way to Manikganj after visiting a shooting spot at Shaljana village in Shibhalaya upazila. The families of Abdus Sattar and his brother Ekim Uddin and people of Shaljana village recalled that Tareque, who visited the spot thrice for his upcoming film was very polite and cordial. Catherine Masud stood under a Kamranga tree as it was raining, while Tareque sat in the veranda of the house, they said. After some discussion on the location, they left for Dhaka. "Tareque Masud spotted our guava tree. I offered him a few guavas that I had plucked earlier, which he accepted with a smile. Soon they were on their way back," said Roksana, wife of Masud Rana, the proprietor's son. Jabel Ali of the village said that work on the location had been partially completed at a cost of Taka 50,000. He was assisting them, he said. The Masuds and their team first went to the spot during the rainy season in 2010. Catherine Masud spotted the location from an engine boat on the river Ichhamoti. Tareque and Catherine spoke with the owners of the house, and asked if they could shoot some scenes at the spot. The occupants of the house agreed to let them use the location. Iqbal Hossain Kochi, a member of Tareque-Mishuk Smriti Parshad, said that Catherine Masud had expressed her interest in shooting the film at Shaljana village. However, it will take time for Catherine to resume shooting, he said.

RAPID FIRE

"Our folk dance should go global" ...Shamim Ara Neepa

A CORRESPONDENT

Celebrated artiste Shamim Ara Neepa has been dancing way back since her childhood. Today, she is an internationally acclaimed danseuse. Despite her hectic schedule, she found the time to talk about her personal and professional life. Excerpts: **Is there any memory which lingers on?** A compliance by celebrated artist and the then director general of the Performing Arts Academy, Mustafa Monwar was the springboard for my dance career. I was a student in the Academy. One day, Monwar saw me sitting alone and watching the other dancers. He asked me if I was feeling down. When I answered in the negative, he said, "I recognise the essence of an artiste. A day will dawn when you will perform and everybody else will watch your dance." **Which is your dream performance?** I have always wanted to perform in a one-hour solo dance recital in which I could use all my dance skills. Without such a performance, a dancer cannot be a complete artiste. **In 1996, I was happy with my performance in "Matir Konya", choreographed by Mustafa Monwar. The theme was a fantasy-based love story where a human being falls in love with a fairy. The other dance recital close to my heart is "Teen Konnyar Daan". In it I enacted all the three characters of Draupadi, Behula and Birangana Sakhina. Each role portrayed an era where women were completely sidelined in a**



male dominated world. The piece was superbly choreographed by Sukalyan Bhattacharya. The present was projected through VDO while I took the audience back to the past. It was staged in 2008. It was another memorable moment and an unforgettable day in the history of Nrityanchal when we recently performed under the guidance of maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj. Truly it seemed that the sky's the limit. The sky had descended on earth that day. **Who is your role model?** My father. As far as dance is concerned, I don't have any specific role model. I love to watch and augment my knowledge of dance by watching different artistes in our village in Karimganj, Kishoreganj. This was to ensure that we would remain close to our roots. We have set up a school for the underprivileged in our village where women attend literacy classes. The year round we share different occasions with them.

friends with him or her. **What tires you the most?** When a mediocre fellow artiste tries to woo the media just to get exposure, it angers me. One should never lose self respect. **Are you a romantic or idealistic person?** It depends on the time and situation. But I can assure you I am not always very realistic. **Dreams ahead...** Every dancer has a dream to make a contribution to the cultural world and for this he or she needs an institution. I am very fortunate that I have had the opportunity to establish Nrityanchal where we train 700 students. If I couldn't dance anymore, I wouldn't have any regrets because I would still have the opportunity to train budding dance talents. We are also in the process of promoting our neglected folk dance and making our folk culture attain global standards. **Tell us how you plan to celebrate Eid.** It's been a tradition to spend this festive day with my parents. Now that my mother stays with me, all my brothers and sisters get together at our house for the day. Though I get very little time to myself, I love to buy gifts for my near and dear ones. **Do you share the day with the underprivileged?** Before my father passed away, his last wish was to be buried in our village in Karimganj, Kishoreganj. This was to ensure that we would remain close to our roots. We have set up a school for the underprivileged in our village where women attend literacy classes. The year round we share different occasions with them.



Beyonce met UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon ahead of the event. Beyonce has performed at the United Nations in New York to mark World Humanitarian Day.

The star sang her 2011 song I Was Here, which talks about leaving one's mark. The large audience included actress Julia Stiles, R&B singer The-Dream and Diane Warren, who wrote the song. "We all see the headlines and we think, 'What can I really do to help?' World Humanitarian Day is an opportunity for all of us to work together to make a difference," said Beyonce. The performance is to be made into a video to launch a global campaign that hopes to encourage people to pledge to do something good for someone in need. Illustrations on the singer's website suggest ways people can leave their mark on the world. "I hope everyone will pledge to complete at least one humanitarian action - however great or small," said UN aid Chief Valerie Amos. "Together we can create an unprecedented awareness of the plight of people affected by crises around the world." The UN General Assembly declared 19 August World Humanitarian Day in 2008. The day aims to recognise people who risk their lives to help those in need and marks the day in 2003 when 22 people were killed in a bomb attack on UN offices in Baghdad.

EID PROGRAMMES Mustafar Monwar's puppetry on Maasranga Television

A CORRESPONDENT

Acc puppeteer Mustafar Monwar will stage a comeback this Eid on Maasranga Television with an assortment of humour and exciting ideas around puppetry. The episodes will be aired on four consecutive days from Eid day onwards. Each episode airs four new stories: "Bohurupi", "Lichu Chor", "Projapoti" and "Kajer Bichar". The entertainment show for the children will be aired everyday at 10:20 am.



Critics applaud Olympic closing ceremony



The Spice Girls perform at the Olympics.

The London Olympics closing ceremony, which featured music stars from The Who to The Spice Girls, has been broadly welcomed by the world's critics. According to The Guardian, the event was "a kaleidoscopic spectacle" that showed "the energy of British popular culture over the past few decades". The Independent called it "eccentric, bewildering and shameless good fun". The Telegraph said the show was "meant to be about cheese - an unabashed, honking hunk of over ripe Stilton". The ceremony, wrote the newspaper's music editor Bernadette McNulty, was "pitched somewhere between a wedding reception and tuning into Magic FM". Yet her review did bemoan the "obvious" absence of such "top-drawer" stars as David Bowie and Kate Bush and said the three-and-a-half hour event was "way too long". Ballerina Darcey Bussell was among the other stars involved in the event. "This all-star mix of live and pre-recorded music was a major crowd-pleaser," declared David Rooney of the Hollywood Reporter, saying the event would be "regarded

as a wonderfully chaotic treasure trove by some and a hot mess by others". The result, he continued, "echoed the fun, free-wheeling spirit and quirky humour established by director Danny Boyle in his divisive opening ceremony". The New Zealand Herald described the event at the Olympic Stadium in east London as "a pop culture smorgasbord that had touches of brilliance, beauty and bewilderment". Yet its critic Troy Rawhiti-Forbes expressed reservations about comedian Russell Brand's "tuneless" contribution and George Michael's performance of his new single White Light. "If there had been remote controls here in the stadium people might have been reaching for them," he suggested. The Times' critic Will Hodgkinson also bemoaned the "notable" absence of The Rolling Stones, Emeli Sande's "underwhelming" rendition of Read All About It and Ray Davies' "craaky" Waterloo Sunset. Overall, though, Hodgkinson concluded that the "joy-

ful and welcoming" occasion "celebrated a side of British life too often dismissed as frivolous". The Pet Shop Boys, Take That, Jessie J and Monty Python star Eric Idle were among the other performers who took to a stage modelled on the Union Jack adorned with representations of familiar London landmarks. Non-musical contributions came from actor Timothy Spall, dancer Darcey Bussell, dance troupe Stomp and the acrobatic ensemble Spelbound, 2010 winners of Britain's Got Talent. Before the event, artistic director Kim Gavin said the ceremony would serve as an "after-show party" to the sporting competition and that it would celebrate "great British popular music". The former ballet dancer, one of the UK's leading creative directors and choreographers, previously produced the 2007 Concert For Diana and Take That's Circus and Progress tours.

Documentary film-making workshop at Goethe-Institut



A CORRESPONDENT

Goethe-Institut in Dhanmondi will arrange a workshop on film-making. Professor Dr. Kerstin Stutterheim, a noted filmmaker from Germany, who is a member of the German Film Academy and specialises in documentary films, will conduct the workshop. The event offers an opportunity for young filmmakers to acquire fundamental knowledge and skill in various aspects of film-making. The workshop will offer a combination of both academic and practical aspects of making films. The event will address questions as how narrated and self-experienced ideas of culture and nature can be used to produce films that create not only awareness but also an understanding of the special situation of a country like Bangladesh. The workshop begins from August 26 and will continue till September 6.

Advertisement for Sapphire clothing store featuring a 30% discount. Text includes: 'Upto 30% Discount', 'Sapphire', '1st August to 31st Eid', and contact information.

Table of TV programmes including Drama Serial, Desh TV, ATN BANGLA, and CHANNEL 9.

Table of Radio programmes including abc radio FM 89.2, Dhaka Calling, and Morning Express.

Advertisement for Chaichhi Tomar on Desh TV, featuring a talk show host.

Advertisement for Win Win on Fox Movies, featuring a comedy drama.

Advertisement for Roshni on CHANNEL 9, featuring a drama serial.

Table of TV programmes including Rugmadhuri, Apur Kheba, CHANNEL 24, and BANGLAVISION.

Table of Drama Serial programmes including Rupantarar Manash, Side Effect, and Radio Chocolate.

Table of News Bulletin programmes including News (Bangla) at 12pm, News (Bangla) at 10am, and News (English) at 9am.

Table of Talk Show programmes including Lead News, Our Democracy, and Chaichhi Tomar.