

WHAT'S ON

**Theatre**  
Play: Dhaboman  
Troupe: Dhaka Theatre  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Oct 4-10, Time: 7pm

**Wood Carving Exhibition**  
Title: Journey by Rickshaw  
Artist: Rokan-Uz-Zaman  
Venue: Zonal Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, Shaibagh  
Date: Oct 4-10, Time: 10am-8pm

**Bharatanatyam & Kuchipudi Dance Recital**  
Organiser: IGC, High Commission of India, Dhaka  
Artist: Malabika Sen  
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, Shabbagh

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: The Excitement in Things  
Various  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan-1  
Date: Sept 30-Oct 11  
Time: 12pm-9pm

**Silk Prints Exhibition**  
Title: Six Story  
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, H-4, R-6, Dharmadi  
Date: Sept 27-Oct 5  
Time: 10am-9pm

**Photography Exhibition**  
Photographer: Anil Advani  
Venue: Radici Centre, Gulshan-1  
Date: Sep 21-Oct 12  
Time: 10am-9pm

**Award and Certificate Giving Ceremony**  
Organiser: Nityanchal  
Venue: Music and Dance Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

# We haven't yet discovered all of Tagore -- Suman Mukhopadhyay

**JAMIL MAHMUD**  
*Suman Mukhopadhyay, born in 1966, made his debut as a filmmaker in 2006 with "Herbert" that won the Indian National Award for Best Bengali Film. The Nabaran Bhattacharya adaptation is an insight into the filmmaker's personal journey, as he stated in an interview with The Daily Star (TDS). Mukhopadhyay was in Dhaka recently to attend the Setim Al Deen Festival with his theatrical project "Bisharjan". With his other films "Chaturanga" (2008) and "Mahanagar@Kolkata" (2009) as well as upcoming projects "Kangal Malsat" and "Shesher Kabita" -- all of which are either Tagore or Nabaran adaptations -- Mukhopadhyay has established an identity of translating recognised literary works into films with ease. Experienced in theatre and with a keen eye on "film-literature", Mukhopadhyay predominantly talked about his debut film "Herbert", and shared his views on Tagore and more.*

**TDS: Why did you choose "Herbert" as your debut film?**  
**Suman Mukhopadhyay:** I first read the novel in the early 1990s. It struck me immediately. At that time I was planning to make my first feature film. Although the plot was tempting, I finally came up with the screenplay in 2001. Till 2001, I made films and documentaries for television. I wanted to start with a feature that would be different from contemporary storytelling, mainly in the sense of narrative structure, and the novel gave me that opportunity.

In the film, Herbert is an individual who is very much from my time. He faces obstacles throughout his entire life. If we consider his life or his presence in the "length of time" (duration of the film), then we can see the socio-political changes that affect him. I wanted to visualise those significant moments on the basis of history.

**TDS: We see a kind of self-denial in the protagonist's attitude. Why so?**

**Suman Mukhopadhyay:** I personally feel that the novel "Herbert" creates a kind of social discourse. The novel is a strong literary work depicting the socio-political changes during a certain time. In the film, the apparently politically unaware Herbert assists his nephew Binu, who is actively involved in the Naxalite movement. When Herbert does it intentionally or unintentionally is not the question, rather the important thing is this type of character is very apparent in the history of every single movement. You cannot deny their contributions.



**TDS: As Herbert gradually grows up we see his different identities. His dreams are not realised and finally he dies a dismal death. Was this despair necessary?**

**Suman Mukhopadhyay:** No, I don't want to call it "sad". I think this tale of a "fall guy" is just another chapter from the history. To me, it is also a celebration of life. History predominantly tells the stories of success. Why don't we shift our eyes from the main street for a while and look for an alley?

**TDS: Death comes as something important in your works, both in "Herbert" and "Mahanagar@Kolkata". Is this a deliberate choice or just what the stories demanded?**

**Suman Mukhopadhyay:** I didn't deliberately choose to show too many deaths. It's an interesting observation. What can I say? Death is an unavoidable phenomenon. If you consider successful Bengali novels such as "Pather Panchali" or "Putul Nacher Itikotha", you will see that they celebrate death in the end.

**TDS: Why adaptations of Tagore?**  
**Suman Mukhopadhyay:** I think we haven't yet discovered all of Tagore. So far we have only "worshipped" him; little has been done to create a dialogue with him. There are a lot of characters in his writings that tell stories of the

marginalised.

**TDS: In case of "Shesher Kabita", why did you take on the challenge to adapt something that is already much popular?**  
**Suman Mukhopadhyay:** Although we categorise it as a romantic novel, it can be seen from a very different perspective. The protagonists finally fail to be with each other, but beneath this, there is a deep insight into the human mind. When I first read the novel as a youth, I only saw its romanticism. But later I was surprised by its other elements. It's a kind of dossier of womanhood as well.

**TDS: Do you feel burdened when you adapt an already recognised literary work?**

**Suman Mukhopadhyay:** There's a definite pressure you feel when you try to visualise characters such as Amit [in "Shesher Kabita"] or Shachish ["Chaturanga"]. But when you come to know that filmmakers such as Satyajit Ray or Ritwik Ghatak did wonders with such fictional characters, it excites you. When you talk about original cinema, won't you consider "Pather Panchali" in this category? After watching the film "Titas Ekti Nodir Naam", the novel had little appeal for me. The burden doesn't feel like a burden any more when you are excited.

# Wasteland after Aila

Through the lens of Shafiq Rahman

Journalist Shafiq Rahman's weeklong photography exhibition, "Wasteland after Aila" (Dukher Diganito Ailar Pare), will open today at 6 pm at Dhaka Art Center. Minister for Information Hasnain Haq Inu will be the chief guest on the occasion. The exhibition is to be inaugurated by eminent artist Shahabuddin Ahmed. Architect Shamsul Wares will be a special guest, according to a press release.

Rahman developed a penchant for photography during his travels at home and abroad as a reporter. When visiting the Khulna-Satkhira region after the cyclone Aila, he was shocked at the unrecognisable landscape that stretched before him. It was virtually a desert. Was this the result of Aila? He searched for answers and reported on this. But that did not seem adequate enough to capture the apocalyptic aftermath. He felt the need to capture the predicament of the place on camera. He presents these poignant images in this exhibition, "Wasteland".

Three years ago, on May 25, 2009 the cyclone Aila wreaked havoc on the south-western region of Bangladesh, leaving in its trail utter devastation and destruction. Over the past few years, the area of Dakop, Koyra, Shyamnagar and other places of Khulna-Satkhira have been left in stark desolation in the aftermath of the cyclone. Harmful shrimp farming practices had already weakened the embankments of the region in several places. The tidal surge brought in by the cyclones easily damaged those weak points and saline water surged into the area. The authorities took no steps to repair the embankment and the saline water settled in the area for the past few years. The land lost its fertility. Trees, shrubbery and all vegetation shrivelled and disappeared. The land became a virtual desert. Biodiversity was harmed. People lost their livelihood.

A careful scrutiny of the photographs will bring to notice the paucity of human presence. It speaks of a silent genocide. This is the story told in Rahman's pictures.

# Sajal's action packed schedule

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The last Eid saw over 30 dramas and tele-films featuring actor Sajal being aired on different channels. The popular actor is also likely to pile up a similar number this Eid. Compared to his contemporaries, Sajal's Eid schedules are more action packed. The busy actor explained, "Since I don't work on serials throughout the year, the Eid festival means more of my short plays are aired as part of the special pro



grammes." Sajal recently finished shooting for Nuzhat Alvee Ahmed's drama "Kajoler Ontordhan", where he paired up with Moushumi. Shooting has also been wrapped up for Partho Sarker's Eid special drama "Otopor Ek Cup Cha", where Moushumi is once again his heroine.

On working with Moushumi, Sajal said the film star is both outstanding in her acting skills and the strengths of her personality. "She is always very pleasant; I'm very happy to have her as a colleague," Sajal added.

He has also paired up with another film star Poppy in Mezbah Siddiq's drama "Godhuli". Sajal said he has had the opportunity to work with Poppy on another occasion, adding that the experience of the latest drama has been very good.

Answering a query, Sajal said, "I'm busy everyday shooting Eid special dramas. It's very hard to name all the plays, as there are so many." Some of the Eid plays which will feature Sajal include two TV plays by Mizanur Rahman Labu, where Sajal will pair up with Sarika and Shoshi respectively. He has also worked opposite Momo and Bindu in two separate Eid dramas by Imran Hossain Imu. Momo is his coworker in Dipankar Dipon's "Phone Call".

He is also set to work with directors like Tonmoy Tansen, Tanim Rahman Angshu and B.U. Shubho for other Eid specials which are yet to be shot. For B.U. Shubho's drama he will work with four heroines -- Shokh, Momo, Mehziaben and Dipa Khandakar.

Asked on his October schedule, Sajal informed that he will be shooting everyday up until Eid-ul-Adha. In the month of October, he will work on dramas by Ferdous Hasan, Habib Masud, Mohon Khan and Zobayer.

Asked on the stories of his Eid special dramas, Sajal said, "Each and every one of the plots is different. As an actor, it's a great feeling to get fresh challenges which offer me a chance to portray new characters regularly. This helps me gather more experience as an actor."

# "Gandhi: Warp and Weft" staged

Geeta Chandran in conversation

KAVITA, New Delhi  
Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated on October 2 every year in India to mark the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, celebrated Bharatanatyam dancer Geeta Chandran staged a solo performance, "Gandhi: Warp and Weft". In an e-mail interview, Geeta shared some glimpses of the eagerly awaited paeon to one of the greatest figures in history.

**Geeta:** On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, celebrated Bharatanatyam dancer Geeta Chandran staged a solo performance, "Gandhi: Warp and Weft". In an e-mail interview, Geeta shared some glimpses of the eagerly awaited paeon to one of the greatest figures in history.

**First of all can you tell us about the title of your production -- "Gandhi: Warp and Weft"? What does it symbolise?**

"Gandhi: Warp and Weft" explores key concepts from Gandhian philosophy through the narrative lens of a female dancer in the 21st century. So in many ways it is Geeta and Gandhi. The dance is planned as a biography for the ideas of -- not the man, not the period of history. But simply unveiling his beliefs! And especially those beliefs that I think have lingering values for our age!

The title thus refers to the tapestry of Gandhian ideas that have been woven thread by thread -- I was sort of pulling the warp and weft of ideas together to recreate Gandhi's vision for change.

**How was the production conceived? What approach have you adopted towards the choreography, given that it is apparently a synthesis between Bharatanatyam and contemporary dance?**

The production required six months of intense re-



Geeta Chandran in a scene from "Gandhi: Warp and Weft".

ing and research and dialogue with several individuals who have contributed to interpreting Gandhian thought. On that sea of research and understanding, I sifted ideas and chose those that resonated to me personally.

The choreography for this dance plays with ideology through abstract movement as well as narrative gestures, and incorporates both classical Bharatanatyam as well as contemporary movement theatre in its physical vocabulary.

Since Bharatanatyam is my medium of expression, my body language reiterates Bharatanatyam principles. But in "Gandhi", I have tried to stretch that vocabulary in different directions.

By any yardstick the character of Gandhi is difficult to delineate and that too through the medium of dance. How are you fusing the very complex aspects of Gandhi and does the production convey a central message?

I held the lens on Gandhian philosophies and chose six concepts that moved me. Thus the performance comprises of six concepts interpreted through dance that flow contiguously from one to the other. The first concept is religious unity, then is celibacy, followed by satyagraha, ahimsa, caste and shram, and finally khadi.

**What are your future projects?**

Apart from a full calendar of solo and group classical events, I am simultaneously working on reviving "Kaiki" -- another dance theatre work and am also creating "SA-Shakti" exploring feminine energies!

# Big win for artist Gulshan Hossain



Participating artists at the symposium.

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Artist Gulshan Hossain recently won the first prize at the International Symposium Autumn Inspiration 2012, held at Penza in Russia. Her award winning artwork, "Reflections", has been done in mixed media.

"I was also declared 'Star of the Symposium' at the closing ceremony attended by artists, critics, media personnel and the Governor of Penza city," said an elated Gulshan.

The art symposium opened on August 20 and ended on September 13, and was jointly organised by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) and ISS (International Sculpture Symposium). Around 63 artists from all over the globe took part in the event. The participating countries included France, USA, Japan, China, Ireland, Spain, Australia, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Bulgaria, Italy, Belarus, Poland, Serbia, Ukraine, India, Russia and Bangladesh.

The organisation will keep all the artworks for their own collection and will hold a group exhibition displaying these. Each artist has contributed 20 paintings.

Gulshan's themes are nature, nostalgia, agony, glee and beauty. The painter likes to portray nature and its mysterious aspects, and most of her works are form and colour-oriented. She tries to grasp the seasons and their characteristics in her works. She has always been enthralled by nature and changes it goes through. She believes that each season has its own language, which is closely connected with the human mind and soul.

"I am very lucky that I had the opportunity to attend a symposium on such a scale. It was an enriching experience, especially in terms of exchanging artistic ideas and cultures from all over the world," said the artist.



Gulshan Hossain with her award winning artwork, "Reflections".



Sargam, the only regular monthly magazine on the music of Bangladesh, stepped into 17 years of its publication on October 1. The momentous occasion was celebrated with a colourful function at the conference lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Veteran lyricist K.G. Mostafa; National Press Club president Kamaluddin Sabuz; renowned folk singer and researcher Indra Mohan Rajbangshi; Khurshid Alam; Iffat ara Nargis; veteran guitarist Enamul Kabir; secretary Masood Ahmed; Raquibul Hassan; Ulka Hossain; Editor, Sargam, Quazi Rownaq Hossain and others were present at the anniversary celebration. This was followed by a musical soiree with the participation of noted singers.

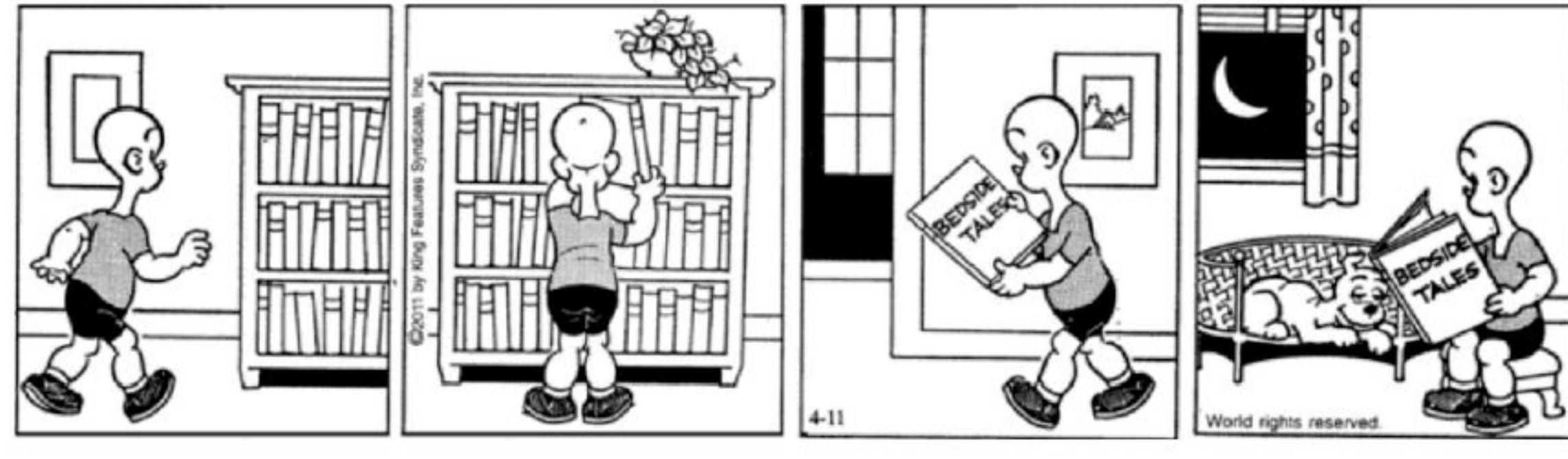
# Beetle Baily

by Mort Walker



# Henry

by Don Trachte



Our heartfelt felicitations to the People and Government of the

# Federal Republic of Germany

On the occasion of their National Day on October 03, 2012 and we also celebrate the 40 years of Friendship between Germany and Bangladesh.

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RADIO	
abc radio FM 89.2	10:00 Morning Express
09:30	Edik Odik
05:30	Kasha Lanka
06:30	Maha Kora
07:20	GP Koushik
07:45	Megh Barata
08:10	Adda
09:30	Rock of Ages
11:10	Halo 8920
Radio Forth	07:30 Hello Dhaka
10:00	No Tension
12:00	Dhaka Calling
09:30	Kings Riders
11:30	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
06:00	Green FM
08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
12:00	Today's Adda
04:00	U Tam
07:00	Tobey Tai Hok
10:00	Raat Shor Gaan

TV	
03:00	Gaan R Gaan
05:00	Durpath
07:45	Drama Serial: Saatkahan
09:45	Bodee Jao Bodee Dao Michil
11:05	Ekhoi Bolbar Shomoy
11:30	Chitra Bichitra
03:30	Carrier Line
09:35	Drama Serial: Shimabodho Manusherha
12:30	Probashe Bangladesh Onabodhya
10:55	Bibekher Kache Proshno
CHANNEL I	
11:05	Sports Time
03:05	Tele-film
11:30	Drama Serial: Roshini
nTV	
11:30	Glamour World
04:10	Janar Achhey Bolbar
03:05	Drama Serial: Jadur Shuhar

PHAGUNER PALA	
On ATN BANGLA at 9:20pm	Drama Serial: Ferdousi Majumdar, Troga Majumdar

THE WARRIOR'S WAY	
On HBO at 07:30pm	Genre: Action/Western Cast: Dong-gun Wang, Kate Bosworth & Geoffrey Rush

JEY GAAN	
On ntv at 09:00pm	Musical Programme Host: Tapan Mahmud

08:15	Achhey	08:10	Made in Bangladesh
09:30	Roshoghar	09:30	Drama Serial: Paa
11:30	Drama Serial: Chowdhury Villa	09:30	Rekhechhi Jubone
ETV		11:30	Gtv
11:30	Elazhey-er Business	06:30	Bangla Feature Film
07:50	Fashion and Lane	09:30	Purano Shei Diner Kotha
08:20	Drama Serial: Ohonghar	09:05	Creme Fiction
10:10	Docu-drama: Change	my tv	
02:10	Sheet Report	02:10	Bangla Feature Film
08:10	Sheet Report	08:10	Drama Serial: Dhaka to Sonapur
Boishakhi TV		10:10	Bangla Feature Film
09:15	Bangla Feature Film	Fox Movies	
04:15	Shirashoni Doctor	03:30	Season of the Witch
06:20	Desh Ghar-er Gaan	05:10	Dylan Dog: Dead of Night
08:00	Drama	09:20	Vampires Suck
11:25	Music Club	10:45	Colombiana
BANGLAVISION		HBO	
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	04:45	Blood Diamond
04:20	Amader Ramnagar	07:30	The Warrior's Way
06:25	Front Line	09:30	Rush Hour 3
11:25	Music Club	11:25	Fatal Destination 2
Rtv		Star World	
12:25	Bangla Feature Film	04:30	Once Upon A Time
09:05	Drama Serial: Boyra Paribar	08:30	The Simpson's
09:50	Lucky Line	09:30	Master Chef Australia
12:05	Ghar-e-Ghar-e-Utshab		