

WHAT'S ON

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

Wood Carving Exhibition
Title: Journey by Rickshaw
Artist: Rokan-Ul-Zaman
Venue: Zaimal Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, Shahbagh
Date: Oct 4-10; Time: 10am-8pm

Bharatnatyam & Kuchipudi Dance Recital
Organiser: IGC, High Commission of India, Dhaka
Artist: Malakha Sen
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh

Group Art Exhibition
Title: The Excitement in Things
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan-1
Date: Sept 30-Oct 11
Time: 12pm-8pm

Silk Prints Exhibition
Title: Silk Story
Venue: Gallery Chitra, H-4, R-6, Dhanmondi
Date: Sept 27-Oct 5
Time: 10am-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Photographer: Anil Advani
Venue: Radius Centre, Gulshan-1
Date: Sep 21-Oct 12
Time: 10am-8pm

Autumn Festival
Organiser: Chhayasat
Venue: Sakhalika, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: October 5
Time: 7am

Theatre
Play: Sherhor Kobita
Troupe: Prangane Mor
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Oct 10
Time: 7pm

Director Bedabrato Pain captures a historic movement Chittagong set for release in India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

US-based NASA scientist Bedabrato Pain is upbeat about his maiden feature film "Chittagong", which is set to hit the screens in India on October 12. The film is based on the 1930 armed insurrection by a band of daredevils led by 'Master-da' Surja Sen against the might of British colonial power.

The film, featuring Bollywood actor Manoj Bajpai and a host of new faces, was shot in a village of West Bengal state, which, according to the director, resembles Chittagong in Bangladesh.

One of the high points of the film will be its music set by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy and the lyrics written by Prasoon Joshi. The music, the director says, has an "unmistakable flavour of Bengal".

Pain has high hopes from viewers in Bangladesh, where "Chittagong" will also be released (though no date has been finalised yet), and says a few people who watched the film in Bangladesh have appreciated it.

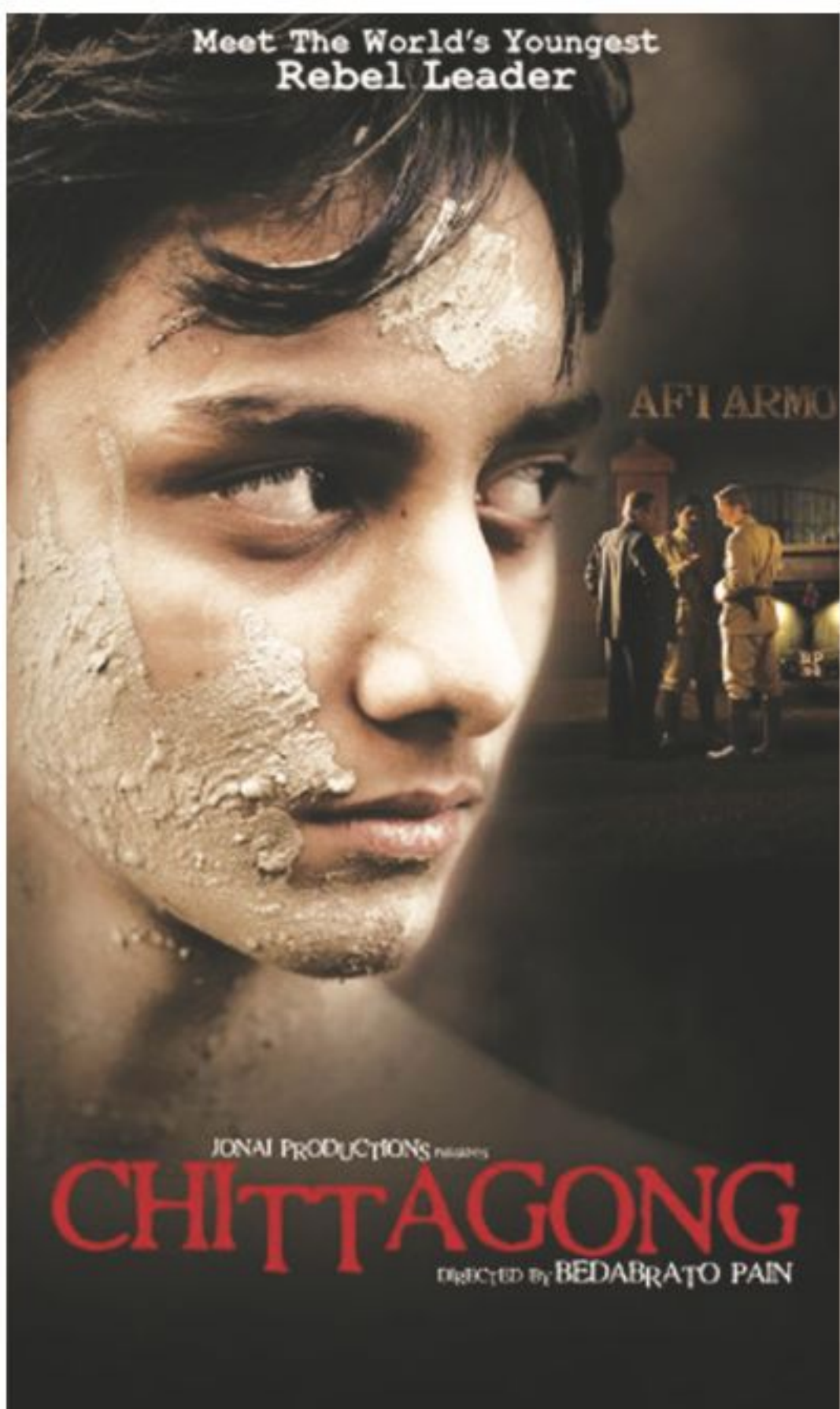
In his early 40s, Pain is a Bengali graduate from Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur, West Bengal, and is now settled in the US. He gave up his lucrative job of a scientist at NASA to turn to filmmaking and took on a challenging period drama, with many first-time film directors would avoid.

Following are the excerpts from an e-mail interview with Pain:

Why a film on Chittagong Uprising?
Chittagong Uprising is one of the glorious chapters of our freedom struggle. For the first time, the British were militarily defeated and were kicked out of a town in the 20th century -- that too at the hands of some untrained teenagers. It required the visionary thinking of Master-da Surja Sen and the bravery of the teenagers led by him. Yet practically nobody knows of this stupendous achievement.

"Chittagong" is a celebration of the human spirit that refuses to give up. And more importantly, "Chittagong" is a story of victory. Most of our films on freedom struggle end in a defeat. I did not want to tell a story like that.

You have said the protagonist of your film is not Master-da. Do you think in that case you run the risk of distorting history? And why did you choose



Poster of the film.

to focus on a teenager?

There is no connection between distorting history and the choice of a point of view. Disinformation or distortion of history can only happen if the main achievements are left out or the significance of a movement is compromised or the roles played by the stalwarts are denied or dealt with in an underhanded manner. I do not think any of these things have happened in "Chittagong".

At the same time, I do have my issues with historians on this matter. For instance, often the impetus of the Chittagong Uprising is situated in the armed struggles in Ireland. My research shows that to be

not true.

In traditional rendition of the Chittagong Uprising, the narrative almost always ends with the hanging of Master-da. However, this is a sadly myopic view. In the case of Chittagong, almost all the revolutionaries -- except for a few -- survived and went on to participate in other heroic and equally visionary struggles. My film does not end with Master-da's death, but continues on to one such story. And this is one of the reasons why a 14-year-old boy is my protagonist. My "Chittagong" is a story of the victory achieved by a reluctant hero.

Did you ever think of shooting the film in Chittagong and are you planning to commercially release it in Bangladesh where you might find a big audience?

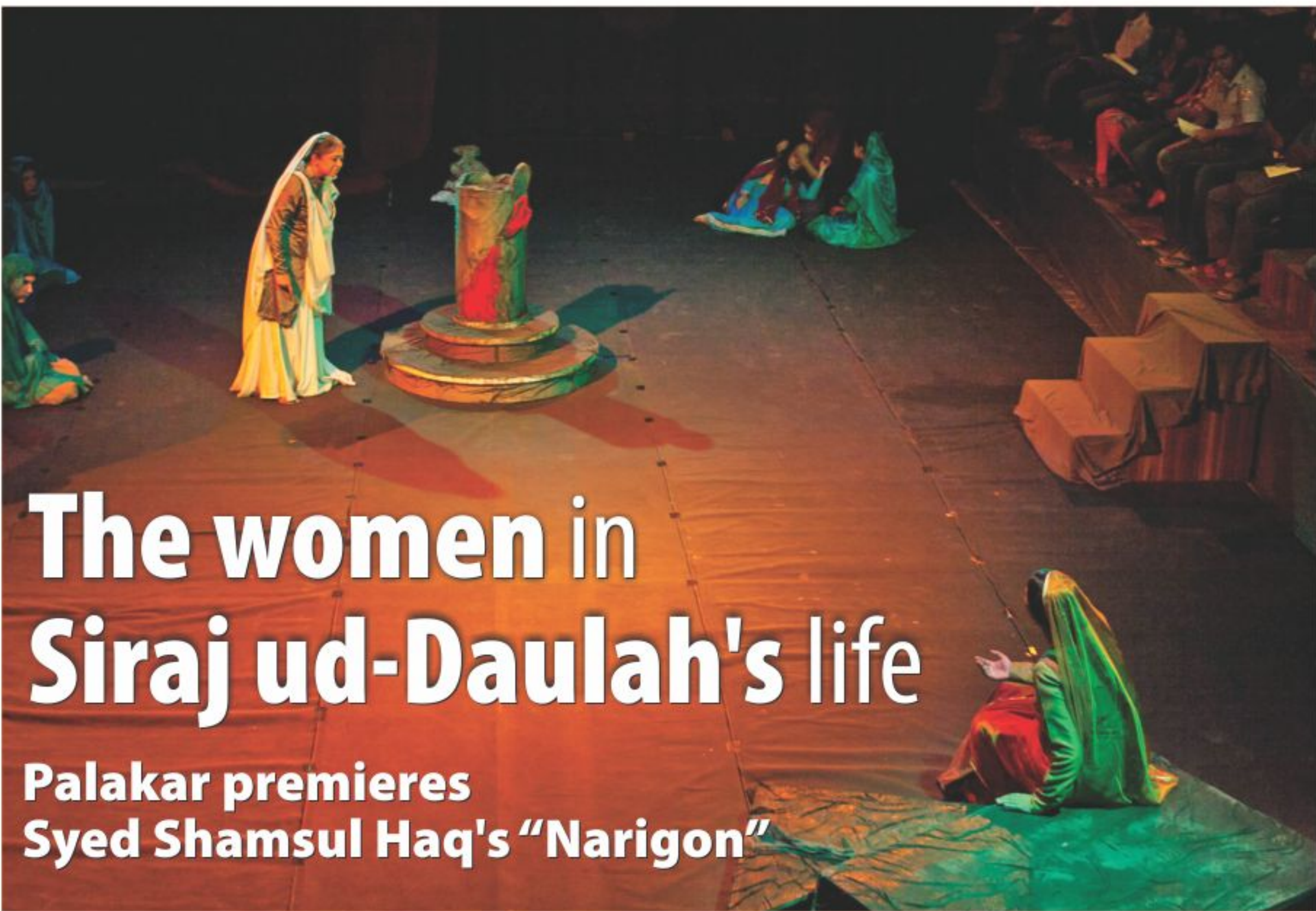
I had travelled extensively in Chittagong -- including the remote locations -- such as the village Noapara where Master-da was born and Dhalghat, which was the scene of a famous encounter leading to the death of Nirmal Sen.

However, looking at the developments that have happened in Chittagong, it was clear that there is no resemblance between today's Chittagong and that of 1930s. So, obviously, the practicalities of shooting took over. In fact, in the end, I chose to shoot in a place that lends tremendous authenticity to the 1930s' Chittagong.

Given the fact that Ashutosh Gowariker's "Kheley Hain Hum Jee Jaan Sey" was a box office disaster, how jittery or hopeful are you about your movie?

The Indian film market has changed a lot in recent times.

There is a significant rise of non-traditional Bollywood films -- which above all, are good films. Why, only this year, we have had successful films such as "Kahaani", "Paan Singh Tomar", "Gangs of Wasseypur", "Shanghai" and others I strongly believe that "Chittagong" is part of this new wave. So, irrespective of what Bollywood films may or may not have been there, "Chittagong" will stand on its own feet. I am extremely hopeful about "Chittagong", but then you know as they say it's after all luck by chance.



As an experimental production, the play has its strengths.

JAMIL MAHMUD

Historically, women have suffered the same fate in every war throughout the ages. Eminent poet and playwright Syed Shamsul Haq's play, "Narigon" (written in 2006), brings to light a dark chapter in the history of Bengal -- the fall of Nawab Siraj ud-Daulah and the fate of the royal women.

Theatre troupe Palakar, which previously produced Haq's "Banglar Maati Banglar Jol", unveiled the new play for the Dhaka audience. The play premiered at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on October 1.

The play has been directed by Aatur Rahman. The veteran director is known for effectively translating Haq's writing for the stage. This is the sixth such collaboration between Haq and Rahman.

Haq's pen imagines what could have possibly happened inside the palace, soon after Nawab's fall on July 3, 1757. History does not shed light on what these women went through. So, the dialogues are imaginary.

On the following night of Nawab's fall, Sharifunnesa (wife of Nawab Alivardi Khan, Siraj ud-Daulah's grandfather), Amina Begum (mother of Siraj ud-Daulah) and Lutfunnesa (wife of Siraj ud-Daulah) along with palace maids were imprisoned inside the palace. The psychological trauma that they face; recollections of the roles they played in politics; fond memories -- all create a moving

collage.

These imaginary, yet bold, dialogues sound credible thanks to performances by a group of talented actors: Farhana Mithu (as Sharifunnesa), Dipta Rakshit (Amina Begum) and Tania Hossain (Lutfunnesa).

The royal women consider suicide but cannot as all arms and venomous substances had been confiscated. The noble women are not perfect. They have their prejudices, as demonstrated by their disdain for the royal courtesan (played by Jayita Mahalanish).

While Sarifunnesa desperately counts on her elder daughter, Ghashti Begum (Arjumand Ara), the former is left heart-broken. However, Ghashti's cuffed hands symbolically convey that she is just a pawn -- humanisation of a historically hated character.

Siraj ud-Daulah (Kazi Faisal) appears for a brief moment and does not steal the light from the women who are the protagonists.

As an experimental production, the play has its strengths. Aniket Paul's design sees the performance area as an arena. The designer allocates the corridors (behind the audience) as part of the performance space -- a group of royal guards roam around all the time. Transparent fabric surrounding the arena and the audience from behind create maze-like insides of a palace.

The production is further strengthened by Lucy Tripti's costumes, Ajay Das' music and Thandhu Raihan's light.

Kali O Kalam's special issue on architect Muzharul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Monthly literary journal Kali O Kalam held a publication (of a special issue) ceremony for the recently deceased architect Muzharul Islam. The event was held on October 2 at Sufia Kamal Auditorium of National Museum, Shahbagh, in Dhaka.

Islam was a pioneering figure in modern Bangladeshi architecture. His style and influence dominated the architectural trends in Bangladesh throughout the 1960s and '70s.

Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, president of the editorial board of Kali O Kalam, presided over the programme. Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director general of Bengal Foundation, was the moderator of the programme. Abul Hasnat, editor of Kali O Kalam, delivered the welcome speech. Architects Shamsul Wares, Rabiul Hussain, Mobasser Hossain, Zakiul Islam, Shama Ali (chairman of Architecture Department, BRAC University); Nazrul Sangeet singer and daughter of Muzharul Islam, Dalia Nawshen, spoke on the occasion.

The speakers were of the view that Islam's designs were marked by innovation. Country, nature and people were the main elements he



(From left) Luva Nahed Chowdhury, Abul Hasnat, Shamsul Wares, Anisuzzaman, Dalia Nawshen and Mobasser Hossain at the publication ceremony.

kept in mind when working. He is considered to be a true Renaissance man. His architecture incorporated local traditions and historic elements. His designs demonstrate his awareness and consideration of the local climate. He was also a political activist.

Speakers also agreed that Islam never surrendered to any kind of pressure, neither did he compromise his values.

Discussants urged the government to preserve buildings designed by him.

The special issue of Kali O Kalam features write-ups on the life and

works of the iconic architect by noted scholars, architects, educationists and his relatives, friends and well wishers.

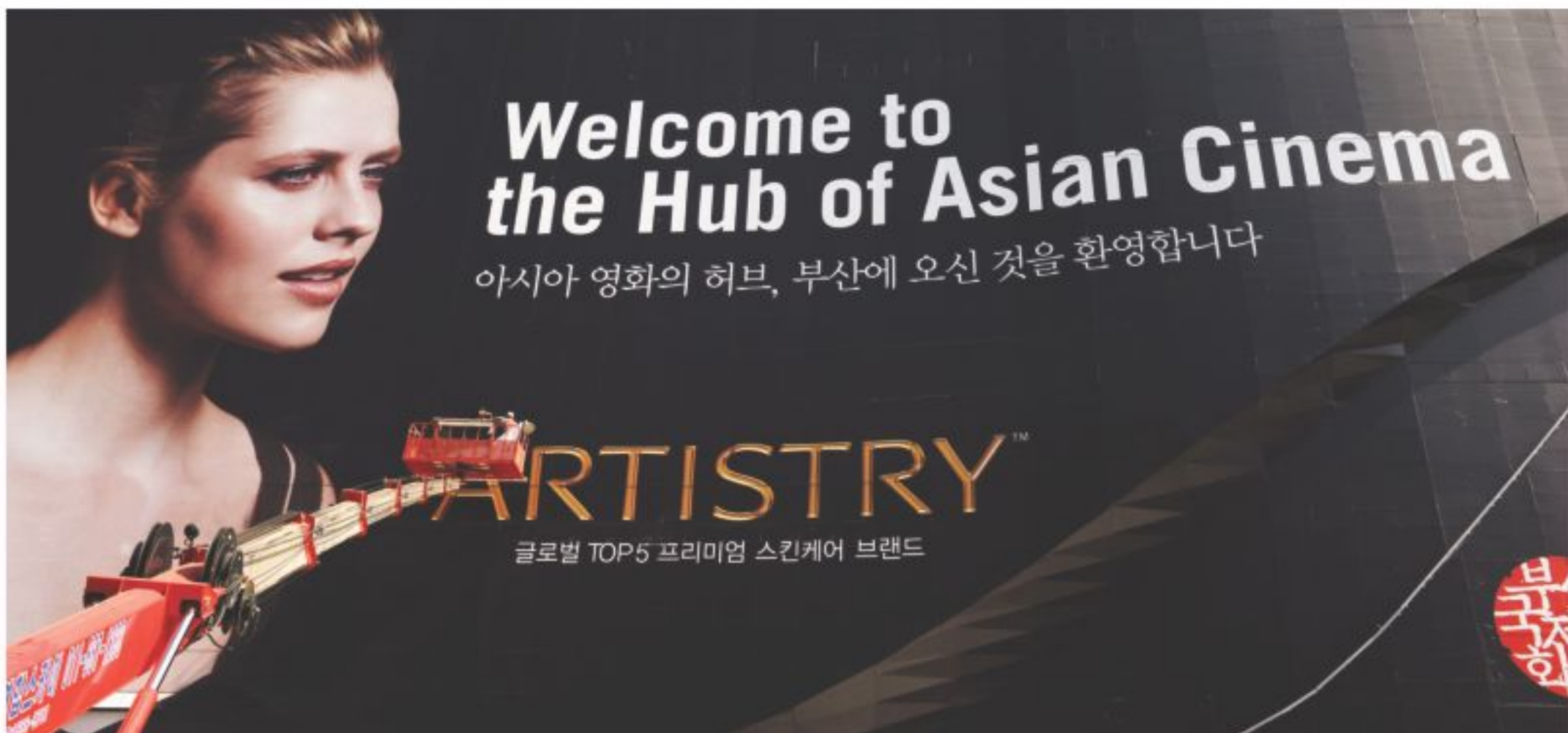
Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Syed Shamsul Huq, Rezaur Rahman, Santosh Ghosh, Matuor Rahman, Shama Ali, Dalia Nawshen, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Kazi Khaled Ashraf, Saiful Haque, Luva Nahed Chowdhury, Abul Khair Litu and others have contributed to the issue.

After the discussion, Laisha Ahmed Lisa and Sharmin Sathi Islam rendered songs.



Cultural activists joined teachers, writers and political activists to protest the recent attacks on the Buddhist community and temples in Ramu and other places in Chittagong. The peaceful demonstration was held in front of the National Museum in Shahbagh, Dhaka on October 2.

PHOTO COURTESY: ABU TAHER AAKASH



Workers on a crane put finishing touches on a banner featuring the 17th Busan International film Festival (BIFF) displayed on a building in Busan yesterday. Asia's largest film festival rolls out the red carpet in South Korea today, offering a window into the region's cinema landscape and a rare screening of a North Korean film. Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's "Television" will see its world premiere at the fest.

PHOTO: AFP

Beetle Bailey by Mort Walker

HOW LONG WILL WE BE CAMPING IN THE WOODS, SARGE?

TWO WEEKS, SO TAKE EVERYTHING YOU'LL NEED IN THAT TIME

GOES + NOISE 4-12

Henry by Don Trachte

BTV	12:35 Shukhi Paribar	11:45 Best of ICC World Twenty-twenty
01:30	Bangla Feature Film	Diganta TV
07:45	ICC Twenty-twenty	11:30 Diganta Onushadhan
	Cricketer World Cup	06:30 Kamophulir Teere
11:05	Chenajana	09:40 Drama Serial: Shimabodhho
ATN BANGLA		11:05 Manusher Music Hour (Live)
11:20 Business and Finance		11:02 Maasranga Television
03:05 Bangla Feature Film		11:02 Bangla Feature Film
08:00 Destination Unlimited		05:02 Amazing Animals
11:00 Drama: Ana Ana Pai Pai		08:00 Tele-film
CHANNEL 1		11:30 Tomay Gaan
11:05 Ani Mas Hote Cholechhi		Shonabo
02:40 Hridoye Mati O		CHANNEL 9
Manusher Daak		09:00 Bangla Feature Film
03:30 Bangla Feature Film		08:40 Drama: Ghum Bhege
Nabila Channel I		08:40 Otha Shurjer Dake Jai
Moharshab		GP Tune Factory
ntv	10:05 Tele-film	09:50 Music Box
06:15 Shubho Shondhya		11:15

abc radio FM 89.2	10:05 Morning Express
02:30 Kacha Lanka	12:00 My Time
03:30 Golak Dhadha	01:00 No Tension
06:30 Mitha Kana	04:00 Dhaka Calling
07:20 GP Lounge	09:00 Night Rider
07:45 Megh Barata	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
08:10 Adaa	08:00 Green FM
11:05 Studio Live	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
Radio Footit	12:00 Today's Adda
07:30 Hello Dhaka	04:00 U Turn

Roshni On CHANNEL 1 at 11:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Lutfur Rahman George, Moushumi

Transporter 2 On Fox Movies at 08:50pm
Genre: Action/Thriller
Cast: Jason Statham, Amber Valletta & Kate Nauta

Ghum Bhege Otha Shurjer Dake Jai On CHANNEL 9 at 08:40pm
Single Episode TV Play
Cast: Aly Zaker,

09:00 Amaro Gaite Ichche Holo	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
11:30 Music Euphony	04:35 Z-documentary
ETV	08:05 Drama Serial: Pancham
04:30 Shanskrit Shomachar	11:00 Ghor Mon Janala
07:50 Drama	Fox Movies
09:30 Ekushey-er Chokh	01:15 Another Earth
12:05 Ekushey-er Raat	02:50 The Help
Boishakhi TV	07:00 Colombian
09:15 Bangla Feature Film	07:00 Transporter 2
01:30 The Business Show	08:50 The Twilight Saga: Eclipse
04:15 Shorashori Doctor	10:20
11:00 Reporters Diary	
BANGLAVISION	
11:05 Shokal Belar Roddur	04:15 Final Destination 2
06:05 Shyamel Bangla	06:10 The Warrior's Way
09:05 Bipashar Othiti	07:50 Yogi Bear
11:25 Gaane Gaane Deshe Deshe	09:30 Ong Bak 2
	11:35 Paranormal Activity 3
Rtv	Star World
12:05 Bangla Feature Film	02:30 Grey's Anatomy
05:00 Cinema R Gaan	04:30 Glee
07:30 Shera Ami Shongse Maa	08:30 The Simpson's
12:05 Music Fest	09:30 Master Chef Australia
Desh TV	National Geographic
03:00 Gaan R Gaan	Channel
06:00 123 Simpur	02:30 Mega Factories
09:45 Style & Fashion	05:30 Air Crash Investigation

ATN BANGLA	Boishakhi TV
08:40pm Chand Paul	09:20pm Gopipathi
Amalchoudhury	09:20pm Amalchoudhury
09:20pm Chayibrita	08:15pm Generation Next Dot
CHANNEL 1	Rtv
09:25pm Baring 757	08:30pm Oloshgur
11:30pm Roshni	09:50pm Mon Bangla
ntv	Desh TV
08:15pm Mayangam	07:45pm Saatkahon
09:45pm Shamma Shumikaran	08:15pm Radio Chocolate

NEWS BULLETIN	
Boishakhi TV	
News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.	
News (English) at 9am, 6pm.	
BANGLAVISION	
News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	
News (English) at 1pm, 5pm, 6pm, 9pm.	
Rtv	
News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.	
Desh TV	
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	
Maasranga Television	
News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.	

TALK SHOW	
BTV	10:10pm Taboo Bathon
10:25pm Unnayan Bangla	
deish	12:00am Zero Hour
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
11:00pm Lead News	02:30pm Talk of the Week
CHANNEL 1	Rtv
12:30pm Tarika Kothon	11:40am Tarikalap
ntv	Desh TV
12:10pm E Shomoy	10:30pm Desh E Golpo
ETV	CHANNEL 24