



# Less dance, more adda

Performance by Shadhona at EMK Center

**KARIM WAHEED**

As the city was waking up from Eid/Puja hangover, Shadhona, a Centre for Advancement of South Asian Culture staged a performance on October 30. The performance, titled 'Adda, na ki naach?', kicked off a series created by Shadhona for the Edward M Kennedy Center in Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

According to a press release provided by Shadhona, the goal of this initiative is to "provide our community with access to new directions in performance and to highlight the important role that young artists play in the enhancement of our cultural life and traditions."

What set the production apart was its use of space -- more like experimenting with the performance space -- and direct interaction between the performers and the audience.

Adda (informal conversation) or dance? The answer was provided by what the perfor-

mance offered. Choreographers Amit Chowdhury, Shabbir Ahmed Khan and noted danseuse Lubna Marium (who came up with the concept and was the artistic director) decided to narrate stories. Narrating stories through dance -- a concept as old as time. But these narratives morphed into 'adda', as they were all too familiar -- a young dancer's depression as she witnesses her parents arguing and eventually separating over her dance lessons, puppy love, reminiscing childhood, fears, traffic ordeal -- and this familiarity combined with an intimate setting allowed the audience to interact and share their stories as well.

Through this interaction, several social issues like gender role stereotypes, growing up in an urban jungle without access to playgrounds and need for taking a breather in a stressful environment were addressed as well. Egged on by the young performers (similar to a comedy club setting), members of the audi-

ence shared personal stories, opinions and did some salsa dancing.

As adda, this production was successful but was it really dance? It was dance in the most minimalist and basic sense. Interpretive dance would be the most appropriate label for this. There were elements of jazz, urban contemporary, hip-hop and aerial dance. Dancers are not known for their verbal eloquence so can't hold that against them. The performances however, couldn't make an impact. They lacked refinement. They communicated but didn't impress. There could be several reasons -- movements limited by lack of space, not enough experience, slippery floor...

This should be encouraged as an experimental production. Without more such shows and experiences, young dancers won't have a solid foundation. Kudos to Shadhona for highlighting up and coming dancers and experimenting with dance forms -- something all dance troupes should take note of.

## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA

# Life of Pi takes the lead

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Oscar-winning Hollywood director Ang Lee's next movie "Life of Pi", a tale of a boy who is left alone on the high seas on a lifeboat with a Royal Bengal tiger following a shipwreck that drowns his family, will be the opening film of the 43rd International Film Festival of India scheduled to be held in Goa next month.

"Life of Pi" starring Bollywood actors Irrfan Khan and Tabu among others, will be the opening film at IFFI. The film will be premiering on November 20 while the closing film will be Mira Nair's political thriller "The Reluctant Fundamentalist", Shankar Mohan, director of IFFI, told reporters in Mumbai.

"We are in the 100th year of Indian cinema... for us opening and closing films have always been important. We were looking for films that have deep Indian connect. And these two films had it," he said.

The film, which also has Adil Hussain and debutant Suraj Sharma in the cast, releases in 3D on November 23.

Lee is known for making films like "Sense and Sensibility", "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon" and "Hulk".



"Life of Pi" is a tale of a boy who is left alone on the high seas on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger.

Tabu and Irrfan will be present during the premiere but Lee won't be there," Mohan said. Ang Lee, who is now here to promote his film, says that he had an adventurous time shooting some portions of the film in India. Lee said it was a privilege to work with Tabu and Irrfan Khan for "Life of Pi".

"I had met Irrfan in New York and asked him if he could be part of the film, he liked the role

# Jazzing up Bengali tunes

RAINA MOINUDDIN ABU ZAFAR

David Holbourne has come to Bangladesh to head the team as the Chief Technical Adviser of Better Work and Standards (BEST), a programme founded by EU and Norway and implemented by the UNDO. An amateur musician, playing the saxophone as a hobby, his interest in Bengali folk and popular music as well as the classical music of India encouraged him to get together with a few of his Bengali colleagues and understand the different rhythms and tones.

"The music of 'Banglajazz', as we call our group now, is to fuse elements of, and influences from jazz, traditional and popular Bengali music and the classical music of India which is such an integral part of Bengali music, as well as South Asian music

scores," Holbourne says.

The group also aspires to play jazz tunes with a Bengali rhythm, jazz harmonies with Bengali songs or combining Indian melodies with jazz style harmonic improvisation.

Their aim is to come up with new and unusual improvised musical compositions that would set a trend in music in Bangladesh as well as other arenas of music.

Other group members of Banglajazz include Waqel Ahmed, a music composer, lyric writer and singer, who has a special penchant for folk and Baul music inspired by Lalou; Sultan Ahmed, an amateur tabla player and flutist, who earned recognition for his skills and accompanied famous artistes of the country; Mujahidul Haque Lenin, an amateur music composer, script and lyric writer, and singer, who is interested in classi-

cal-based modern songs, has done some music direction of a few plays for Lok Natya Dal since the '80s. The sole female member of this mostly young group of artistes is Keya, an amateur singer, who focuses on folk music and is especially fascinated by the Baul songs of Lalou.

Having observed an informal session of the group, one could feel the interest and fast developing understanding of the members of the group for each other's music and style of presentation.

Banglajazz will perform in the first week of November at a fund raising event organised by Zonta IV club, a non-profit, charity-based group of female professionals.

The author is Assistant Professor, Imam Mohammad Bin Saud University, Riyadh.

# Chumki turns director

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actress Nazneen Hasan Chumki has recently directed a one-episode play titled "Oshompto Golpo Ebon Bhindeshi Tara", also written by her. Chumki says the story is about a boy who spends his time alone in the attic.

This, however, is not Chumki's directorial debut. Her first effort was in "Je Jibon Foringer, Doyeler", which was aired on Desh TV. The actress admits that the task of a director seems much difficult to her than that of an actor.

Moushumi Nag played the leading role in "Ekti Oshompto Golpo Ebon Bhindeshi Tara", aired during Eid-ul-Azha. SR Mizan was behind the camera, which was shot on Ashulia streets and at a shooting house in Uttara.

Apart from acting, directing and writing, Chumki has lately been busy hosting a Desh TV show titled, "Amra Dujone Dekhte Kemon". The multi-tasking star says, "No matter what I do, my main identity is that of an actress. Acting is what soothes my soul and gives me all the joy I seek."



# Jayati Chakraborty to perform at National Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jayati Chakraborty, a talented musician from India, will perform at a solo musical soiree at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on November 2.

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka and Bengal Foundation will jointly arrange the musical soiree, titled "An Evening of Rabindra Sangeet by Jayati Chakraborty".

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu will be present as chief guest while Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran will be present as special guest.

Jayati has trained under stalwarts like Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty, Supriya Ghosh, Jatleswar Mukherjee, Biman Mukherjee and more.

Jayati subsequently brought out her first music album, comprising adhunik Bangla songs, "Doorer Pari" (2002), and immediately followed it up with another album with the band Eklabya in the same year. Other music albums



released by her include "Ei Hridoy", "Megher Bari", "Ei Toh Ami", "Tomar Ashime", "Akasher Nir", "Ke Jabi", "Smaran", and "Anandasandhya".

Jayati has toured abroad extensively; she performed in London as part of the 'Biletey Rabinpran' 2010, in the USA, and the North American Bengali Conference in 2009 and 2011. She is also the proud recipient of several national and state awards for music in India.

# Traditional horse race in Thakurgaon

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

A traditional horse race was held at Shaheed Mohammad Ali Stadium in Thakurgaon municipality area on Saturday afternoon.

The event brought additional joyous moments to townspeople amidst the festivities of Eid-ul-Azha.

The competition had 17 participants from Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Nilphamari districts.

Of the participants eight were selected for the final round. In the final competition Abdullah-ke-Kafi of Domer village under Damar upazila in Nilphamari won the first prize. The second prize was wrested by Anwar Hossain of Sakoya village under Boda upazila in Panchagarh and the third prize winner was Md. Jalaluddin of Dimla village under Dimla upazila in Nilphamari district.

The first prize winner took home a 21-inch colour television, the second and third prizes were bicycles.

The local Senua Sahitya Sangshad organised the event.

Deputy Commissioner of Thakurgaon Mukesh Chandra Biswas was chief guest at the programme while acting Superintendent of Police Md. Belayet Hossain and Chairman Thakurgaon Municipality SMA Moyn attended the function as special guests.

Among others, general secretary of District Sports Association Masudur Rahman Babu, president and general secretary of district unit Bangladesh Football Federation Mominnul Islam and Habib Mohammad Ahsanur Rahman Pappu and member of District Sports Association ATIM Monirul Huda, addressed the gathering.

President of Senua Sahitya Sangshad told The Daily Star that the event was organised to promote an old village tradition that is on the verge of extinction.

The locals of the area raised funds for arranging the event, he said, adding that it was a matter of pride for the organisers that thousands of people attended the race.

One of the patrons, SMA Moyn told this correspondent that he hope that the race would become an annual event.

The public response has been very inspiring, he said.

## ON THE SMALL SCREEN

# Siddiq rules the roost

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Although Siddiq Rahman is a relatively newcomer to TV dramas, he has become a popular name. His credible performances in comedies have brought him much appreciation. He has exceeded many top actors in remuneration, popularity and demand. Many TV plays are now written, with him in the central role.

Siddiq comments on his rise to fame: "Soon after my Intermediate exams from Notre Dame College, I wanted to travel to New Zealand for further studies. But I stayed back and eventually fell in love with theatre and the media, a love which has grown stronger over the years."

An extremely busy actor, Siddiq, works round the year. "I can't turn down directors. However, I've learned to decline offers when I don't like my character or the plot," Siddiq says. During Eid-ul-Azha, his focus was on special dramas for the festival. He adds, "At least 25 of my plays were aired during Eid. Among them, four have been directed by me, while I also acted in them."

Some of Siddiq's Eid-special plays included "Dance Director", "Shish", "Shorpo Ebon Bhalobasha", "Great Mistake", "Haturi Doctor", "Lodging Master", "Modhur Milon", "Pocket Achhe Taka Nai" and "Ichhe Korei Ichhe Korei Na".

TV channels are currently airing nine serials featuring Siddiq. Channel 9 is airing "Bachelor: the Family", ATN Bangla is airing "Toto Company", Rtv is showing "Gayer Manush" and "Iti Dulabhai", Boishakhi TV is airing "Out of Control", Gaz TV is airing "Sweet Maney Mishu" and Ekushey TV is showing "Joyal Jadukor". He has also worked in half a dozen new serials.

Siddiq has worked in a film, titled "Ei Toh Bhalobasha", directed by Shahin Kabir Tutul, which is expected to be released later this year. Siddiq adds that he plans to make a movie under his own production house. "The film will be titled 'Banglar Gobindo' where I will play the eponymous role," Siddiq informs.

The actor observes that contemporary dramas have compromised on quality. However, he says he prefers to opt for projects that maintain a high standard.

Siddiq learned the ropes of the media from Tariq Anam Khan, working as his assistant director for a while. He also has five years of stage experience with Theater Arambagh. Siddiq credits Tariq Anam Khan as his guru.

So far, Siddiq has directed eight TV plays and written 26 more. "Kobi Bolechen", a drama written by him and



directed by Iftekar Ahmed Fahmi, gained much popularity. Siddiq says he made a beginning with direction, while acting came later.

The actor adds that he has been able to create a separate stream in TV dramas. He adds, "It's a great achievement that dramas are now made centering me. From four year olds to nonagenarians, everyone enjoys my dramas. It was only possible with God's blessings."

Termining the love of the audience as his greatest achievement so far, Siddiq says, "When I travel abroad, people do recognise me and request for autographs or photos. I thoroughly enjoy this."

In his native home in Tangail's Modhupur, Siddiq always seizes opportunities to help the impoverished in his area. "I also want to join politics in the future," the actor adds.

# Music Planet School holds Certificate Award Ceremony



**Dutch Ambassador Gerben de Jong, architect Mustapha Khalid Palash (C), musicians Fuad Nasser Babu (L), Naquib Khan (2-L) and Labu Rahman (2-R) at the ceremony.**

Music Planet School held its third certificate award ceremony at Emmanuel's Banquet Hall, Gulshan-1 in the capital on October 24, says a press release.

Youngsters of the school kicked off the event with a symphony on violin, piano and guitar.

Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Bangladesh, Gerben de Jong, attended the event as chief guest and handed certificates among the students of the school.

Noted architect Mustapha Khalid Palash, chairman of Delvasta Foundation; noted musicians -- Naquib Khan, Fuad Nasser Babu, Pilu Khan, Shakila Zafar and Partha Barua -- spoke at the ceremony as special guests.

Managing director of Music Planet, Saifuddin Saki; department head of the school, Labu Rahman; and audio engineering instructor, Shamim Ahmed, also spoke at the event. The programme ended with a rousing performance by the band Feedback.

# Disney buys Star Wars maker Lucasfilm

Disney is buying Lucasfilm, the company behind the Star Wars films, from its chairman and founder George Lucas for \$4.05bn (£2.5bn).

Lucas said: "It's now time for me to pass Star Wars on to a new generation of film-makers."

In a statement announcing the purchase, Disney said it planned to release a new Star Wars film, episode seven, in 2015.

That will be followed by episodes eight and nine and then one new movie every two or three years, the company said.

The last Star Wars film was 2005's Revenge of the Sith, and Disney said it believed there was "substantial pent-up demand".

Disney will pay about half in cash and half in stock, issuing 40 million Disney shares in the transaction.



PHOTO: BBC

The deal follows Disney's acquisitions of Pixar studios for \$7.4bn in 2006 and Marvel comics for \$4.2bn in 2009.

"Our valuation of Lucasfilm is roughly comparable to the value we placed on Marvel when we announced that acquisition in 2009," Disney said, adding that the valuation was almost entirely driven by the Star Wars franchise.

George Lucas launched

Lucasfilm in 1971 and the first Star Wars film was released in 1977.

"For the past 35 years, one of my greatest pleasures has been to see Star Wars passed from one generation to the next," Lucas said.

"I've always believed that Star Wars could live beyond me, and I thought it was important to set up the transition during my lifetime."

Lucas will continue as a creative consultant.

Kathleen Kennedy, currently co-chairman of Lucasfilm, will become president of the firm and will be the executive producer on the new Star Wars films.

When the later Star Wars films were released in the 1990s and 2000s, although they did well at the box office, they were generally not well-received by fans.

But Josh Dickey, film editor at Variety magazine in LA, said that Disney was a "great fit" to update Star Wars.

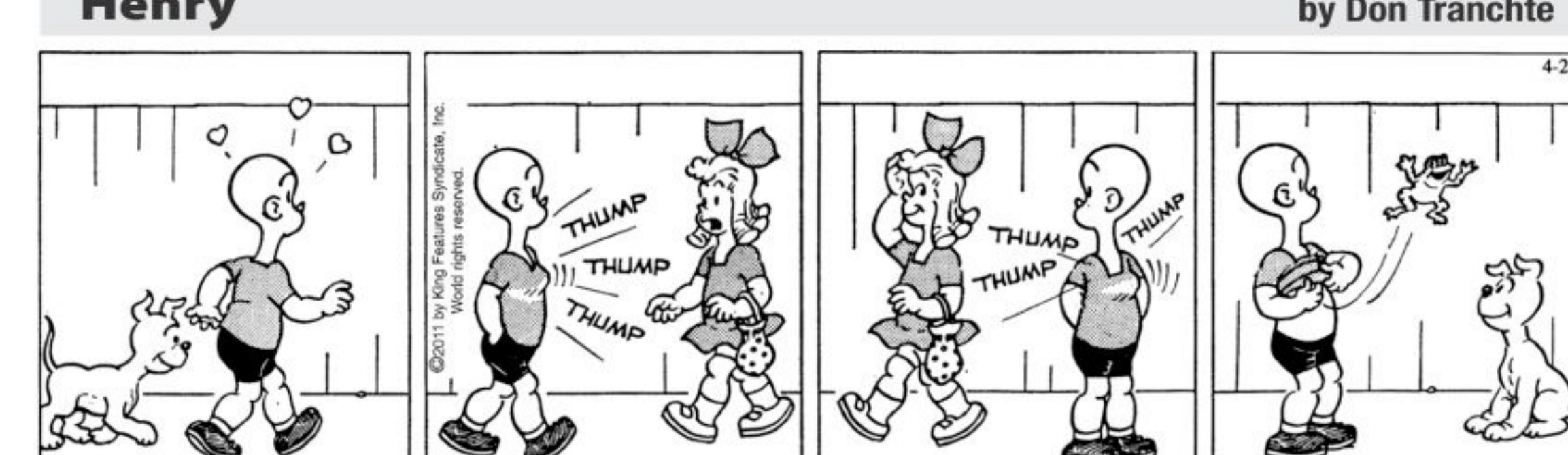
"They're so good at branding and brands. They're so good at working with existing intellectual property and making it resonate with fans and marketing it very well," he told BBC World Service radio.

Source: BBC



PHOTO: STAR

A memorial programme, focusing on the life and works of recently deceased poet-litterateur Sunil Gangopadhyay, was held at 'Shadhinata Angan' in Madaripur on October 30. Initiated by Madaripur Nagarik Committee, noted personalities including Dr. Mahbub Hossain, Professor Nazmul Haque Akash, Professor Firoj Ahmed, Professor Debashish Halder and Professor Dulal Sarkar recited poems and reminisced on the late poet. Dr. Abdul Bari presided over the programme.



BTV	10:05 Kishor Mancha	08:05 Drama	Bati Chalan
	10:30 Musical Programme	08:40 Drama	Drama
	12:10 Bangla Feature Film	10:30 Shomoy Katut Gaane Gaane	
	05:30 Matir Toney		ETV
	06:10 Rupali Tarar Gaan	12:30 Bangla Feature Film	
	07:05 Drama: Onno Rakam Bhul	04:00 Tele-film	
	08:35 Drama: Tomar Chokhe Dekhi	06:30 Drama Serial: Ulala 69	
	10:30 Ichhey Korei Ichha Korina	07:30 Drama: Akbar Bhai Dhora	
ATN BANGLA		09:30 Drama	
	10:30 Bangla Feature Film: Montaj	10:30 Celebrity Secret	
	03:10 Tele-film: Bhalobasha Ki Kore Bhalo Hoy	11:30 Drama Serial: Bibhranti	
	05:30 Drama: Chor Gele Buddhi Bare	12:10 Phone Live Studio Concert	
	07:45 Drama: Dance		BANGLAVISION
	08:50 Magazine	10:10 Bangla Feature Film	
		01:30 Eid Ayojon	

**Na Shojoni On CHANNEL 1**  
Single Episode TV Play  
Cast: Shaheed Sharif Khan, Jul

**Matir Nandan Phul**  
On Desh TV at 09:30pm  
Single Episode TV Cast: Humaira Himu, Shoshi

**Bristir Din**  
On ntv at 08:15pm  
Single Episode TV Play  
Cast: Arman Parvez Murad, Bidya Sinha Mim

Programme:	02:10 Houseful
Comedy Hour	06:15 Drama Serial: Arman Bhai
10:55 Drama: Tumi Amar Kostre Kostre Shukh	08:10 Drama Honey-moon-e Shukh
CHANNEL i	11:10 Drama Serial: Maya
09:45 Tritio Matra	11:55 Drama: Out
11:05 Special Programme	
03:30 Bangla Feature Film	Side
07:50 Drama: Na Shojoni	10:05 Bangla Feature Film
09:35 Drama: Ghar Shorpur Baran	02:10 Tele-film
12:00 Aiker Shongbadpata	05:00 Tele-film: Bhalobashi Tai
ntv	07:15 Drama Serial: Jolpori
10:05 Bangla Feature Film	08:10 Dance Programme
02:35 Tele-film	09:20 Drama: Circle
05:30 Musical Programme	11:00 Drama: Prem Bou
06:45 Drama Serial: Shukh-taan	11:45 Music Programme
08:15 Drama: Bristir Din	
09:15 Mil Khujje Pai	09:30 Bangla Feature Film
11:30 Drama: Adharer Alo	03:00 Sonali Din Rupali Gaan
Boishakhi TV	06:00 Gopon Kotha
10:30 Bangla Feature Film	07:40 Drama Serial: Radio Chocolate
03:00 Tele-film	08:20 Drama Serial: Patalpurir Golpo
05:15 Music	09:30 Drama: Matir Kitchhen
06:15 Drama Serial: Borisal Private Ltd.	10:35 Call-er Gaan
07:30 Drama Serial:	11:05 Chhoto Prane

### NEWS BULLETIN

BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm	News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm	News (English) at 9am, 6pm
CHANNEL 9	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm	News (English) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
Desh TV	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm
Rtv	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm	News (English) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
Maasranga Television	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 11pm	