

WHAT'S ON

Book Launch

Title of Book: Bishoy Ami Bishwa Bidhatir

Venue: Ramesh Chandra Dutta Smriti Auditorium, Chhayanaut

Date: May 31

Time: 6:30pm



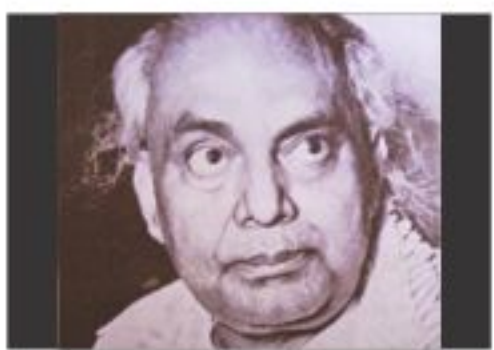
Rare Photographs of Nazrul

Organiser: Nazrul Institute

Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh

Date: May 26-31

Time: 10am-6pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: The Oriental Life

Artist: Nazmul Haque Bappy

Venue: Gallery Chittrak, R-6, H-4, Dhanmondi

Date: May 18-27



Sculpture & Painting Exhibition

Artists: Ferdousy Priyabhashini and Karu Titas

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, Rd-27 (old), Dhannondi

Date: May 24-June 4

Time: 12-8pm



Theatre Festival

Organiser: Northern Theater

Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: May 24-31

Time: 7pm



NEWS bytes

Nazrul's birth anniversary celebrated

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

To observe the 114th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, district administration arranged two-day-long programmes at the ancestral home of the poet's wife Pramila Nazrul, in Tewta, Manikganj. ABM Anwarul Haque, local lawmaker, inaugurated the programme on Saturday, while local administration high-ups and litterateurs addressed the inaugural function. The speakers urged citizens to draw inspiration from the life and works of Nazrul. They extended their thanks to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for taking steps to hasten the renovation of Tewta Zamindar bari, and called for realization of the pledge for a library, an institute and an auditorium at the Tewta. After the discussion, the artistes of Shilparath performed dances while local artistes rendered songs and recited poetry. The district administration also arranged a discussion and cultural programme – featuring songs, dance and a stage play – at officers' club auditorium in Manikganj on Saturday.

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

In observance of Rebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's birth anniversary, a special programme was held at Narail Shilpakala Academy. Nazrul Academy, Grab Shilpogoshi and Bappy Smriti Sangskritik academy jointly organised the daylong programme on Sunday. The event included a discussion, poetry recitation, renditions of Nazrul songs and a contest for children. The function was chaired by Md. Zohirul Haque, Deputy Commissioner, Narail.

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

A discussion and cultural programme was held at Netrakona Shilpakala Academy on Saturday, marking the birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam. Deputy Commissioner Anis Mahmud presided over the discussion, addressed among others by municipality mayor Prosanta Roy. Speakers at the discussion discussed the life and literary works of Nazrul. Different cultural organisations performed at the stage following the discussion, in front of an audience of several hundreds.

Its True!



The classic Steven Spielberg film "Catch Me If You Can" is based on the life of Frank Abagnale Jr, who -- before his 19th birthday -- successfully performed cons worth millions of dollars. Abagnale himself is seen in the film, as the French policeman who arrests Leonardo DiCaprio -- who plays the role of Abagnale in the film.

Mutual admiration

Kazi Nazrul Islam and Sachin Dev Burman



HQ CHOWDHURY

Kazi Nazrul Islam and Sachin Dev Burman came to know each other during the former's third visit to Comilla in 1922. The poet was then 23 years old and Burman was a teenage folk music addict. Nazrul was immensely attracted to Comilla's rich cultural life with Nabadwip Chandra Burman's house at Chartha as the focal point. Pirs, Murshidis, Gazis and Bauls were regular visitors at the house, and it was also customary for western musicians to break journey at Chartha for recitals while going onwards to Agartala. Music triggered a close affinity between Nazrul and Burman and the front room of the Chartha house became hub of their music sessions. Senior musicians of the bygone era were of the opinion that it was the young Burman who introduced his 'Kazi-da' to the vast folk store of East Bengal.



The poet was the cynosure of all eyes, creating ripples throughout Bengal with his fiery poems and writings. His "Bolo Bir Chiro Unnoto Momo Shir" and "Karar Oi Louho Kapat" were already in circulation. Understandably the young Burman became an avid fan of Nazrul. By the late 1920s, Nazrul had become a maestro with unbelievable mass appeal, because of his prowess as a poet-composer, his magnetic personality and the stunning voice of Dilip Kumar Roy, who was rendering his songs all over India. When Burman moved to Kolkata in 1924 for his Master's in English Literature, the friendship between the two talents blossomed further. They frequently met at various music 'addas'; Nazrul had a pet name for Burman... 'chatgeye', because of his 'East Bengal' accent. Nazrul was aware of his young friend's weakness for Ustad Faiyaz

Khan's music, since in 1937 he had recorded the Natbehag shaded, "Jhan Jhan Jhan Monjiro Baaje" (based on the Ustadji's "Jhan Jhan Payel Baaje") of which poet Ajoy Bhattacharya was the lyricist. Nazrul wrote "Kuhu Kuhu Kuhu Kuhu Koyelia" especially for Burman on the footing of Ustadji's other masterpiece, the Khamaj (Khambaj) based khayal, "Na Manungi Na Manungi Na Manungi". Burman as usual delivered it in his inimitable style adding his favourite folk motifs. Like "Jhan Jhan Jhan Manjiro Baaje", this also was a roaring success. The flip side of the record had "Meghla Nishi Bhoery". Reminiscing on the song, Burman said, "It was a rain soaked cloudy morning. I was composing songs in my room, when Kazi-da all of a sudden stepped in with his characteristic Mozart-like smile. 'Look what Mother Nature had to offer us. Give me a bit of paper and a pencil', he said. He then sat by my side, wrote and tuned the entire song in just thirty minutes." Both these songs were recorded in 1940; that is 18 years after the two first met. Later, there were two more songs by the duo, both phenomenal hits at that time, "Chokh Gelo, Chokh Gelo" and "Padmar Dheu Re". Despite their friendship and their formidable combined talent, Nazrul-Burman recorded just four songs together and that too at the fag end of Nazrul's career. Why they were overtaken by others like K. Mullick (Mohammad Kashem), Abbasuddin Ahmad, Gnanendra Prasad Goswami, is a different story altogether. The writer is a music and film buff.

Rare Moments

Nasir Ali Mamun's photography exhibition on Mrinal Sen

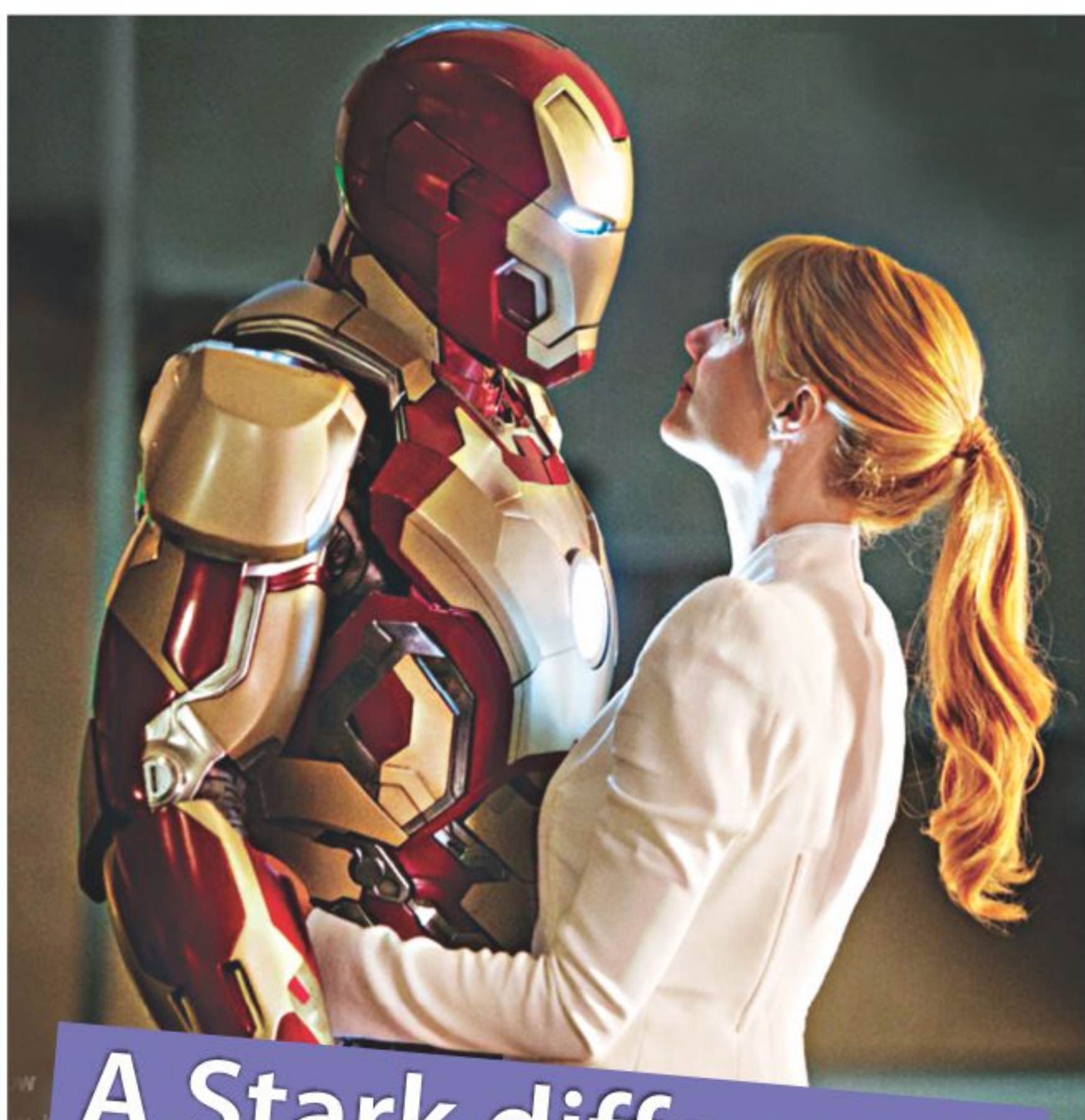


Mrinal Sen (L) and Nasir Ali Mamun at the exhibition.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of 91st birth anniversary of internationally famed Indian filmmaker Mrinal Sen, Gorky Sadan in Kolkata was decorated with rare portraits of Mrinal Sen by Bangladeshi photographer Nasir Ali Mamun. The ten-day exhibition ended on May 24. All the photographs were taken when Mrinal Sen revisited his birth place Faridpur in 1991, after 48 years. Mrinal Sen and Pabitra Sarkar, former Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University; film critic Samik Bandopadhyay and actor Dwijen Bandopadhyay jointly inaugurated the exhibition. About 24 black and white photographs were on display. The exhibition was jointly organised by Rialto Institute of Acting and Eisenstein Cine Club at Gorky Sadan, Kolkata. Mamun captured several candid moments of the iconic helmer along

with his wife, actress Srimati Gita Sen. Mamun stored these valuable negatives for the last 22 years. After opening of the exhibition, a dialogue between the audience and Mrinal Sen and Nasir Ali Mamun, titled "Face to Face: The Master with the Photographer" was held at Gorky Sadan. They shared many significant moments in the discussion. Born in 1953 in Dhaka, Mamun began his photographic career just after the Liberation War. He is also known to many art critics and connoisseurs as 'Camera'r Kobi' or "the poet of the camera". He has captured images of many international literary figures and prolific personalities, including poet Jasimuddin, artist SM Sultan, poet Shamsur Rahman, essayist Ahmed Sofa, German Nobel Laureate Gunter Grass and more. Till date, Mamun has had more than 52 solo photography exhibitions to his credit.



A Stark difference

Iron Man 3 at Star Cineplex

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Even to the most casual of movie buffs, Iron Man is a very familiar name. Right from the first movie of the franchise in 2008, it has found a place in the hearts -- and DVD shelves -- of anyone who enjoys action, thrill and sci-fi. His first arrival in Dhaka was with "The Avengers" where he shared the screen with a number of other Marvel superheroes, but in the 50th year of the birth of the character, the billionaire-playboy-philanthropist has announced his solo arrival here. Star Cineplex has been bringing the latest and biggest Hollywood blockbusters for the Dhaka audience throughout the last year, and have followed up "Skyfall" and "Life of Pi" with the third instalment of the Iron Man series -- the eighth-highest grossing film of all time since its release just a month ago. The premiere -- on May 23 -- also featured an Iron man exhibition and a live concert. Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.), the man behind the crimson-and-gold armour of Iron Man, is yet to recover from the trauma of the New York alien invasion (from "The Avengers") and has built dozens of Iron Man suits. One of a series of bombings by Stark's nemesis -- Mandarin -- that have left the US intelligence bewildered, injures his security chief, as the ever-so-chilled-out Stark loses his calm and issues an open televised threat to Mandarin. His

Malibu beach house is soon brought down in a vicious air attack, as Stark escapes in one of his prototype suits. Marvel's perfect superhero then finds himself in situations he's not accustomed to -- making his way through Tennessee without much assistance from the uber-futuristic gadgets and support from his artificial-intelligence assistant JARVIS. The bigger picture unveils -- as he finds out more about the project "Extremis", its mastermind Aldrich Killian (Guy Pearce), and who the Mandarin (Ben Kingsley) really is. As the Iron Patriot -- the US intelligence's clone of the Iron Man armour -- is taken from its owner Colonel James Rhodes, Stark and Rhodes must now save President Ellis and Stark's girlfriend Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow), with assistance of JARVIS and his other prototype armours. What doesn't change from the previous Iron Man films -- is the super-futuristic technologies and visuals, the snappy one-line retorts that Stark makes, and JARVIS' intuitive backup, but what is new in this edition is Stark's humane side; he suffers from panic attacks, is at situations he has no clear way out, and his love for Pepper overcomes his love for super-heroism. "Iron Man 3" delivers what it is expected to: thrills, big blasts and jump-off-the-seat action sequences, and your money's worth of adrenaline. If you set out with the right expectations, it is the perfect 130 minutes to spend in front of a big screen.

Musical evening by Yakub Ali Khan

A CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in association with the State Bank of India in Bangladesh and Channel i as Media Partners organised a musical evening by prominent Nazrul singer Md. Yakub Ali Khan, on May 25. The evening opened with Khan's rendition of "Ganga Sindhu Normoda..", followed by "Oi Chanchal Lilayito Deha..", and other numbers like "Tumi Benuka Bajhao..", "Ami Jodi Arab Hotam..". The evening concluded with "Ami Jedin Roibo Nago..".



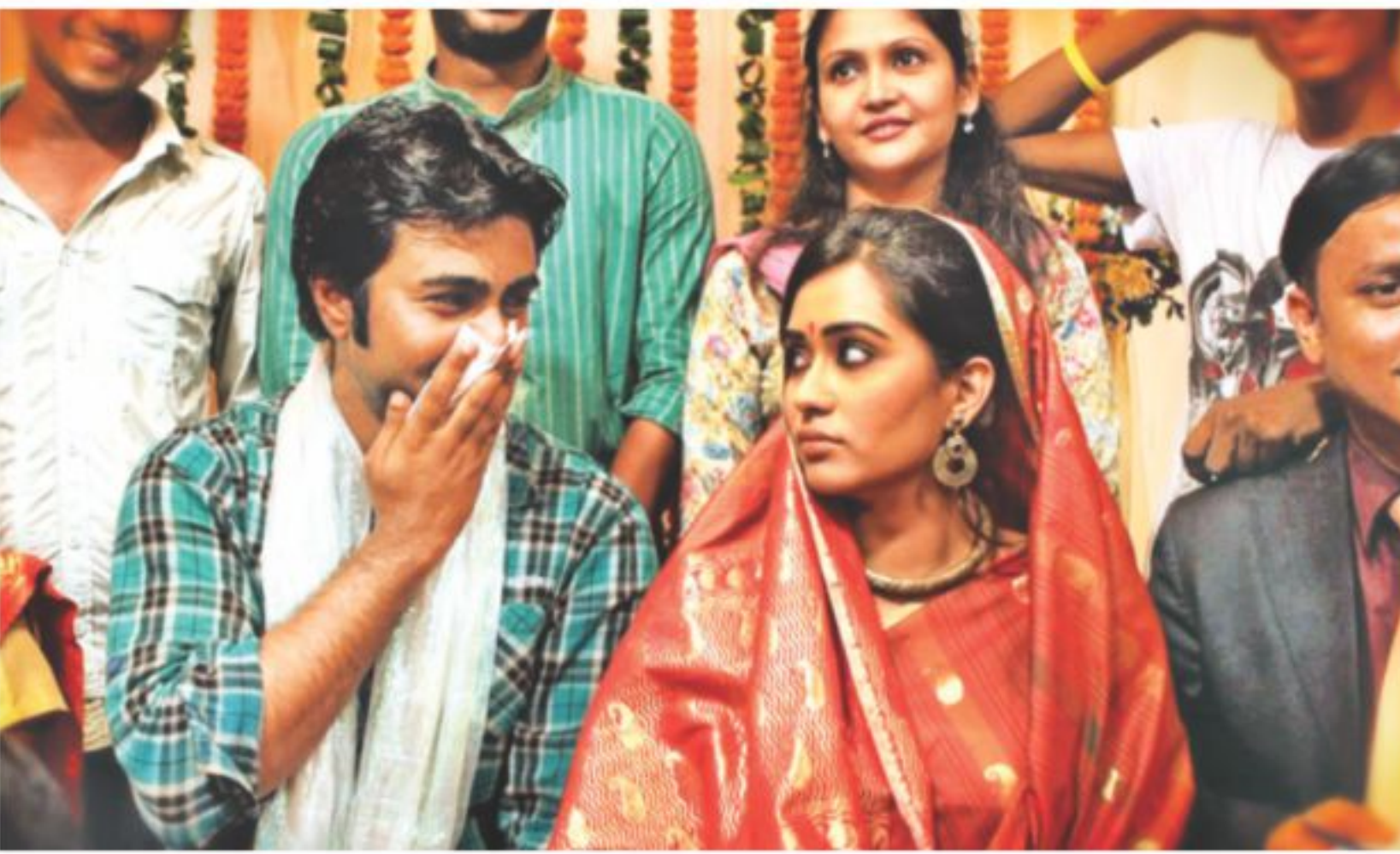
Khan mentored under Babu Purna Chandra Shutrardhar, Prabir Chatterjee, Pandit Barin Majumdar, Narayan Chandra Basak, Sheikh Lutfur Rahman, Khalid Hossain and Pandit Mithun Dey. In 1979 Khan won the "Ashraf Smriti Shornopodok" in a country-wide Nazrul Sangeet contest. In 1980, Ali stood first in the Higher Classical Music Training Course of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Yakub Ali Khan is a regular trainer at the Bulbul Lalitkala Academy, the Nazrul Academy and at several public and private universities of Bangladesh.

TV WATCH

"Bhalobashar Chotushkon" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

TV Serial "Bhalobashar Chotushkon" goes on air on ntv tonight at 9:45pm. The serial -- centering on the complicated trajectory of love affairs of three couples -- will be aired every Monday and Tuesday at the same time. The cast of the series includes Apurba, Momo, Shahriar Shubho, Moutushi, Saju Khadem, Tania Hossain, Moushumi Hamid and others. Jointly written by Shihab Shaheen, Mezbah Uddin Suman and Iffat Arefin Tanwi, the serial is directed by Shihab Shaheen.



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