

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition on Tajuddin Ahmad
Venue: Gallery 21, 751 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi
Date: July 23-August 8
Time: 12pm-8pm

Photo Documentary
Title: Bakshir Haat
Organiser: Jog
Venue: Dhaka Art Center
Date: July 14-30
Time: 3-8pm

Charity Art Exhibition
Title: Fida's Janno
Venue: Zaimi Gallery-2
Date: July 14-30
Time: 10am-8pm

Film Screening
Title: World Best Comedy Film Show
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: International Digital Cultural Archive, USA
Date: July 22-31; Time: 7:30pm

Group Print Exhibition
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, R-6, H-4, Dhanmondi
Date: July 28-August 3
Time: 10am-8pm

Group Print Exhibition
Title: Under Pressure
Venue: Bengal Art Location, Gulshan 1
Date: July 5-August 10
Time: 12pm-8pm

Group Exhibition
Title: Finding A Voice
Venue: ArtSpace Gallery of Fine Arts, Cha-7/1/D, Pragati Shonali, Uttara
Date: July 5-31
Time: 10am-8pm

Japanese Cultural Fest
Venue: TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University
Date: July 27
Time: 10am



Back to basics

The story behind ICHCHEY HOY

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Naquib Khan, Pilu Khan, Fahmida Nabi and Zulfiqar Russell are all well-known names of our music industry. While the Khan Brothers have settled into the roles of composers alongside their legacy with band Renaissance, Fahmida Nabi's melodious, sweet voice continues to enchant audiences, and Zulfiqar Russell, while not a familiar name to listeners, has penned numerous hits over the years. So what happened when the four came together to cook up an express album?

The four recently visited The Daily Star, and told the story themselves.

How did you four come together for an album?

Fahmida: Russell should answer that. Russell: The album was a very sudden decision. A couple of weeks before Ramadan, Suma aka (Fahmida Nabi) had just called to catch up casually. She told me we should do some music together. That same night, I called her up and asked if she had any albums releasing this Eid. When she said she didn't, I said "Then why not do an album this Eid?"

Naquib bhai and Pilu bhai were in our plans from the beginning. I am personally very comfortable working with them both. So I called up Pilu bhai the next day, and asked him to do four songs. He never says no to me; so I said I'd send him the lyrics over email.

So, where the songs pre-written or did you write specifically for the album?

Russell: I usually write songs on my cellphone. I browsed through the notes there, and found quite a few ones that I had written but never got to use. So I sent

a couple of them to Pilu bhai. I then called Naquib bhai, who asked me to check back the next Friday. To the utter surprise of both of us, Naquib bhai composed all four lyrics that day, in a single sitting.

Naquib: This is a personal record for me; but I liked the lyrics so much, that we just kept going. What I was worried was whether the songs would get a little monotonous since I did them at one go. Turns out, it didn't happen.

Pilu: I have very good understanding with Russell. He knows the kind of lyrics I like working with, and I know the kind of tunes he's expecting. The first song he sent me was really beautiful.

Fahmida: The lyrics today are very 'light'. What Russell did was keep the songs very relevant, while not giving up the emotions that are universal and transcend the boundaries of time.

Russell: The tracks were arranged in India, but it was amazing how much it sounded like it did in the composers' minds. What was great was I asked the guy back there if he'd heard of Renaissance, and that Naquib Khan and Pilu Khan were the composers, he replied "What are you talking about? I grew up listening to them!" The tracks came out great; it reflected that those who did the work were familiar with Naquib bhai and Pilu bhai's work.

Fahmida: The reason we were able to do such good work in so little time is because our teamwork was very solid. Everything was so much in sync, it was easy for me. As driven as Russell was to get the work done, Naquib bhai and Pilu bhai themselves took my voice takes and told me what I could do better.

Pilu: As satisfied as I am, I can only wonder how much better it could have been if we had a little more time. Specially Numa, who had to give vocals of multiple songs in a day; must have been tough on her.

Fahmida: That said, we did this album with a lot of sincerity. Not in one song did I use my voice copy-pasted for a repeat or chorus. For a five-minute song, I sang the entire five minutes.

Russell: Naquib bhai had to go to Gazipur one morning, but he stayed with me till 2am. Without this level of sincerity, the album would not have been a reality. We tried to keep it old-fashioned and natural. We did not use a single digitised loop in the album. All the instruments were played by hand.

Fahmida: This is something I think is very important for this time; when everyone is trying new things, we wanted to go back to the basics. We wanted to do it au naturel, and we believe we have succeeded in doing so. The rest is up to the audience to decide.

Pilu: We have so many good musicians, but the output is not coming like that. I think because of lack of maturity and sincerity. We wanted to do that.

Fahmida: There is another person we must mention. We have a duet in the album that I've done with Bappa Mazumder. He did his part very nicely, and said he was happy to be a part of the project.

Meanwhile, the judgment of the songs in CCMA Popular Choice category will be done by 6 private FM Radio Stations, choosing winners in five categories through public voting.

Albums sought for CCMA

A CORRESPONDENT

Citycell, in association with Channel i has been organising the Citycell-Channel i Music Awards for the last nine years, recognising the best musical talents of the country. The awards that began in 2004 to promote the music fraternity of Bangladesh, will host its 9th edition this year.

The music albums for the awards will be received from today till August 20 at Channel i office in Tejgaon, Dhaka. The organisers are seeking seek audio cassettes, audio CDs and VCDs from individuals and production houses released from January 1 to



December 31, 2012.

Inclusive to the lifetime achievement awards, the 9th Citycell-Channel i Music Awards will be given in 16 categories. The categories are Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Sangeet, folk songs, modern songs, classical vocal, classical instrumental, motion picture sound-track, band music, underground band, songwriting, new artiste (male/female), sound engineering, cover design, music direction and music video.

Finally, what's the album called and when is it coming?

Russell: It's called "Ichhey Hoy", and will be available from July 30.

IN FOCUS



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Like other relics of the Muktagacha dynasty in Mymensingh, a part of zamindar Nagendra Narayan Acharya Chowdhury's house is still to be taken over by Department of Archeology [DoA] as a Protected Archeological Monument.

The historic house is on the verge of collapse due to years of neglect by the authorities. Deserted over 60 years ago, the house is engulfed with weeds due to lack of proper maintenance and no one has come forward to take the responsibility of caring for the heritage building.

The zamindars left the country after partition in 1947 and since then the house has remained uncared for. The doors and windows of the house were stolen over time. The mosaic floor though is still in good condition.

Zamindar Nagendra Narayan allotted a portion of his palace to establish a school at the house to educate female members of the zamindars' family in 1907. The house with six rooms and a staircase at the back was greatly admired by other zamindars of Muktagacha.

As the number of students increased, the school was shifted to an adjacent site in 1940 and it is now Nagendra Narayan Pilot Girls High School.

Zamindar's home in a derelict state

If some repair work is carried out on the roof of the house and the doors and windows are set in place, the building could withstand the elements for many years, said teachers of Nagendra Narayan Pilot Girls High School.

"We repaired one room of the six-room building to use it as a storeroom for abandoned articles of the school," said Ashotush Sarker, headmaster of the school. K.M Khaled Babu, MP, from Muktagacha and upazila nirbahi officer recently visited the school and assured that the local authorities would take necessary steps to protect the house, informed the headmaster.

On different occasions locals have demanded the renovation of the deserted houses of Muktagacha zamindars but all their appeals have gone in vain, said

Devasish Ghosh Bappi, vice-chairman of Muktagacha upazila parishad.

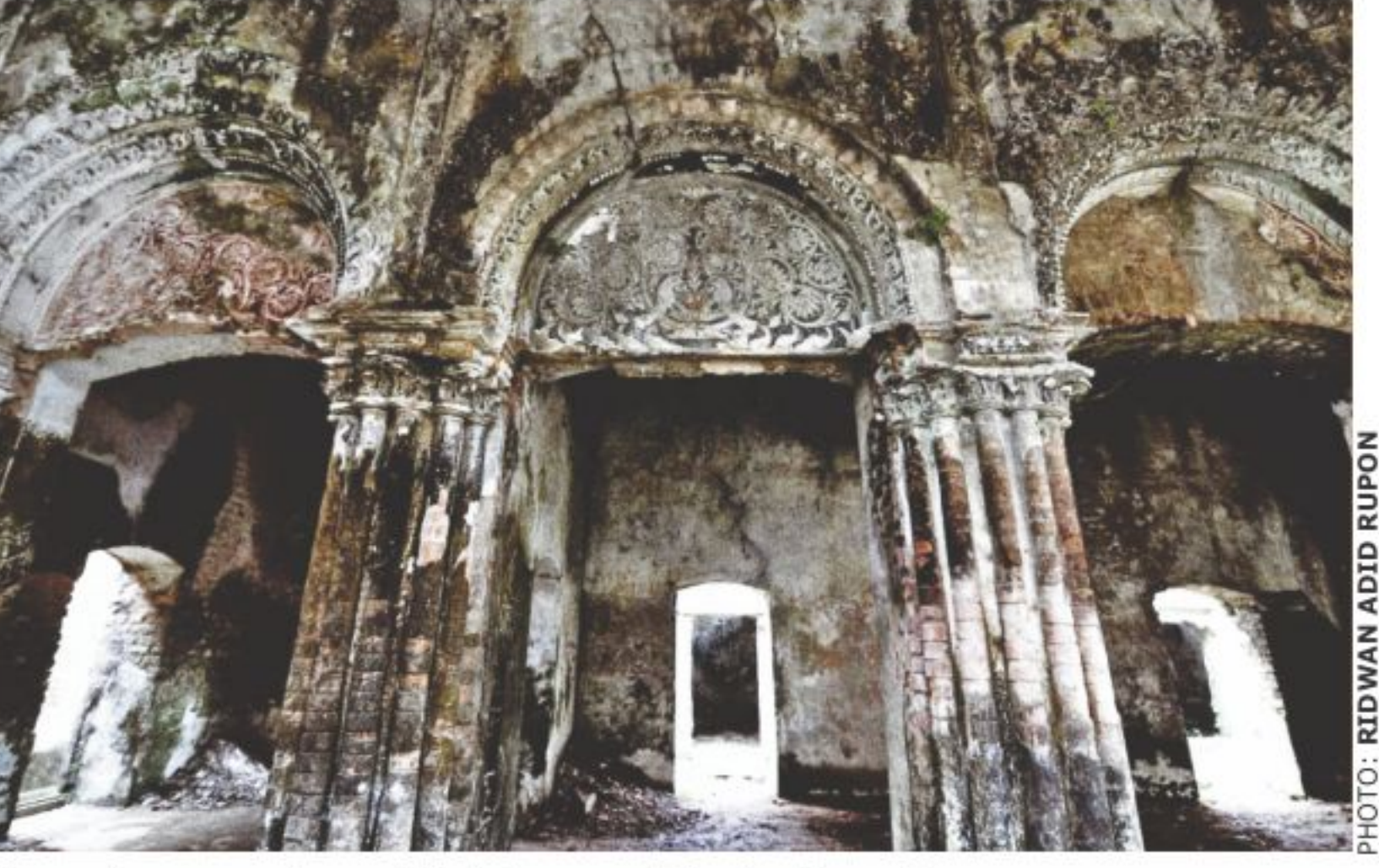
Advocate Badar Uddin Ahmed, Muktagacha Upazila Parishad chairman told this correspondent that there has been no well thought out initiative to preserve the historic relics of Muktagacha.

Shyamol Krishna Chakraborty, a veteran prohorit (priest) of Muktagacha said that the temples built during the zamindars' period have historic appeal and should be protected without delay.

The DoA has taken six sites under its wing but there are also some sites in Muktagacha with same historical importance, said Shyamol Krishna.

The glorious past of Muktagacha can only be preserved through care of all historic sites such as Boro Hishyabazar Kali Mandhir, Pikhana Brammah-Bishnu-Moheswar Mandhir, Atani Bazar Gouranga Mandhir, Kutubpur Shiva Mandhir, Kirtankhola Mandhir, Laxmikhola Shiva Mandhir and Rajarajswari Mandhir, Shyamol Krishna urged.

An official of DoA, on condition of anonymity, told this correspondent that due to a shortage of manpower in the department, many archeological sites in Mymensingh region are yet to be traced.



No one has come forward to take care of the heritage site.

Theatre in Round : A treat for an intimate audience

Rehearsal of Chaka goes on at Natmandal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, the Department of Theatre of Dhaka University (DU) is going to stage a Selim Al Deen Play titled "Chaka". The play will be staged on three consecutive days (August 18-20) at Natmandal in the campus, marking Selim Al Deen's 64th birth anniversary. The show will start at 7pm everyday. A special show for the press/ media and the invited guests will also be held at 7pm on August 17 at the venue.

Al Deen's friend and a DU Professor of the Department of Theatre, Syed Jamil Ahmed has translated "Chaka" in English and Hindi, and directed it in the USA, India and Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, Dhaka Theatre produced the play. Noted filmmaker Morshedul Islam has made a feature film with the same title too.

The story of "Chaka" zooms in on a cart-driver, along with an old man and a youth, embarking on a journey to deliver a corpse of an anonymous man who was unjustly killed. The corpse-bearers are all poor peasants who had set out to seek work at a marshland where summer crops are being harvested. No one knows who the dead man was or how he died, although the corpse is the central character of the play around which the plot is woven. As the living trio travel with the dead through rural landscape, each small detail emerges with compelling clarity, melting in phantasmal memories and fantasies of the three, engulfing them with a touch of the uncanny. The body decomposes, rats, stink-eyes bulge out, ants attack the flesh - yet the three cannot find the address of the deceased. Villagers at the given address refuse to acknowledge it and redirect him to another village. Thus driven away from all human destinations, the driver and his two companions bury the dead on a dry riverbed, with deep love.

Though Selim Al Deen started writing the play against the backdrop of contemporary political scenario of 1990, it touches the timeless Islamic and Santal myths at the end. For this reason, director Sudip Chakraborty, along with the cast and crew of

"Chaka" attended classes at the Department of Islamic History and Culture of DU and went to Kalkonhaat of Godagari, Rajshahi to get themselves acquainted with the music, dance, lifestyle and indigenous culture of Santal community for the production. They also took help from the Department of Drama and Dramatics of Jahangirnagar University where Al Deen would teach.

Local pat, depicted by Raghunath Chakraborty, has been used for the production. Dry leaves signifying the cold state of death, will be placed round the stage. Apart from direction, Sudip Chakraborty, an Assistant Professor at the Department of Theatre of DU, has also designed set and light for the production.

"As the play narrative in style, I have followed circular stage pattern that our oriental philosophy suggests.

The circular stage has a similarity with the womb, the solar system, the sun, the moon, rotation of time, lifecycle and especially "Chaka" or the wheel. Only the Masters and First year students will perform in the play, signifying the cycle of theatre activists beginning and ending their academic journey," says Sudip Chakraborty.

Associate Professor Wahida Mollick Jolly of the same department has designed costume while Nila Saha has done music for the play. Masters (final semester) students -- Syeda Ilat Ara, Laboni Akter, Mahedi Tanjir, Sushanta Kumar Sarkar, Nusrat Sarmin, Mahjabin Islam and Khan Md. Rafiqul Islam -- on stage will perform in Chaka while several first years' students will perform chorus offstage.



The circular stage represents the "Chaka" or the wheel.

Daily Star O/A Level Awards on TV today



PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star has been honouring the top achievers of the O and A Level exams held every year, for the last 14 years. This year, a total of 1,464 awardees were given certificates and medals, in a grand programme at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium on July 6. Of the candidates from Bangladesh, 53 awardees were recognised for achieving the highest number in the world in their respective subject papers. Everest-conquering mountaineer Nishat Majumder handed out the awards as chief guest, while Robert Winnington Gibson, British High Commissioner in Dhaka and Mahfuz Anam, Editor, The Daily Star were also present, among others. The programme also saw cultural performances by students from a number of reputed English medium schools.

The Award ceremony will be telecast on Channel i at 11:30am today.

TV WATCH | Shudhu Shei Janey on channel 9 tonight



A CORRESPONDENT

Single Episode TV Play "Shudhu Shei Janey" will go on air on channel 9 tonight at 9:15pm. Based on an unpublished novel by Moru Chatterjee, Jahir Raihan has written and directed the play.

The story of the TV play follows a sad feeling experienced by a father. The fatherly feeling is indescribable while his son keeps himself away from him. One

may feel such only after being a father. The cast of the play includes Tauqir Ahmed, Moushumi Hamid, Gupu Trivedi, Malay Bala and elocutionist Shimul Mustapha. Noted elocutionist Shimul Mustapha, for the first time, donned the role of a director while noted artists and teachers -- GC Trivedi Gupu and Malay Bala -- of the Department of Oriental Art of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University have enacted two central roles in the play.

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The Daily Star

NEWS bytes

Pocket Bhora Shoishob premiered

Plan International Bangladesh arranged a premiere show of the telefilm "Pocket Bhora Shoishob" on working and street-children on July 24 at the Star Cineplex in the capital. Written by Azad Abul Kalam and directed by Badrul Anam Saud, the cast of the play includes Saberi Alam, Joyraj and Sanjida Prid. The telefilm will be aired on the third day of Eid at 10 am on ETV, according to a press release.

Anwar Hossain Shikdar, Deputy Country Director, Plan International Bangladesh graced the event as chief guest.

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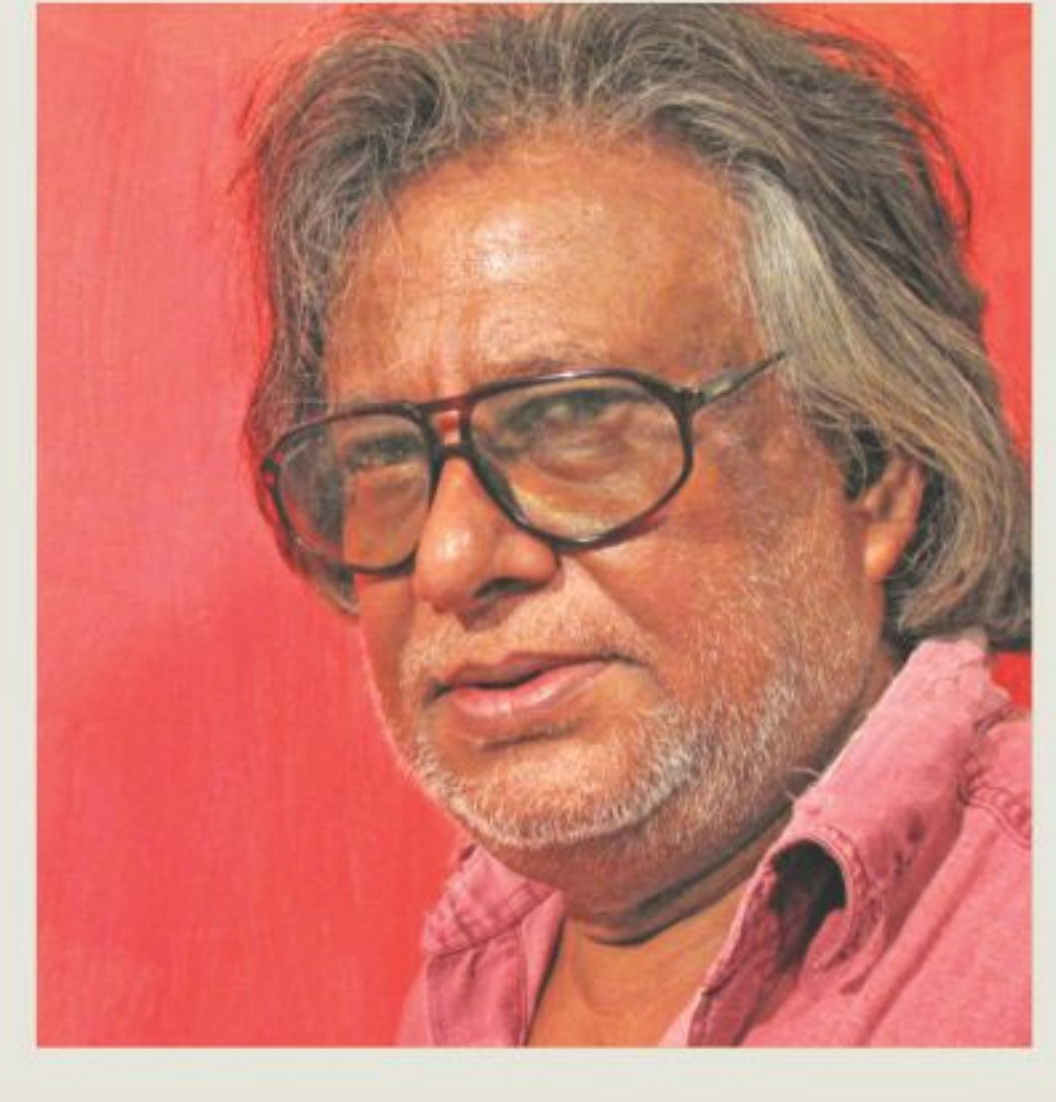
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Spaniards. Spanish nightlife is legendary and one of Spain's greatest attractions. Bars and nightclubs stay open throughout the night. Spaniards enjoy the weekends lively. On Friday evenings, people are ready to welcome the weekends.

"On weekends, I visit museums and inaugurations of different exhibitions in Madrid. Prado, Rania Sofia and Thyssen -- the three significant museums are very near to my house. I have a number of friends, who are architects, gallerists and painters. On weekends, we meet at different places and hang out together. But the discussions are more constructive and intellectual. Maintaining ties of friendship is also very important in Spanish life. On holidays, I also visit Segovia, Toledo for a different taste of lamb, cheese and bread. Spain is famous for its huge range of gastronomic experiences. The cuisine of Spain is amazingly varied. The fact is that Spain has spent so much of her history filled by outsiders' intent on possession, might first come into view as a disadvantage from a culinary point of view."

He added, "In Dhaka, the climate is not at all favourable. But I enjoy the company of friends of varied ages. The discussions are more lively and emotional. On weekends, I am also invited for inaugurations as a guest. Traffic jams have become a common phenomenon in the city."

The artist has visited many countries in Europe, Asia and other continents for exhibitions, seminars and art carnivals, of which he picked Luxor, Cairo, Morocco as his favourites. Monir said, "I like to visit these places for their kind-hearted people, comfortable weather, delicious foods and more. In those cities, I visit contemporary art galleries to study current art trends in these countries."