

## WHAT'S ON

**Photography Exhibition**  
Life and works of Tajuddin Ahmed  
Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 19-September 8  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: "Ode to Beauty" by Shama Shalom  
Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Française De Dhaka  
Date: Aug 22-Sep 4

**Solo Watercolour Exhibition**  
Title: "Jai Chob" by Shahnoor Hossain  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française De Dhaka

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: "Momentary History" by Nazmul Bari  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
Date: August 12-30  
Time: 12-5pm

**Album Launch**  
Album: Koto Chandi Bitha  
Jaye by Dia  
Venue: Port Sofia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum  
Date: August 22

**Classical Music Soliree**  
Title: Dhrupad Shaili  
Venue: Bengal Shilpakala Academy, Dhanmondi  
Date: August 23  
Time: 6-9pm

**Musical by Uttaran**  
Title: Celluloid-e-Rabindranath  
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum  
Date: August 23  
Time: 6-9pm

## A TALE OF DECEPTION AND DISILLUSIONMENT

### Theatre premieres Kuhokjal



SAURAV DEY

Theatre premiered their latest production "Kuhokjal" to a houseful audience recently at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. This was the 45th play of the troupe.

Written by Masum Reza and directed by Tropa Majumdar, the play unmasks the innate inhumanity of humans through a story involving betrayal, murder and deception. As the plot develops, Ghuron Sardar -- the central character of the play -- starts witnessing the beastly facets of human nature unfold before his eyes, which in the end leads to his disillusionment and ultimate tragedy.

Ghuron and Chandura are in an affair. But Chandura's father fixes her marriage with Amod Majon, a hypocrite politician living in nearby village.

Chandura, despite her reluctance, agrees to marry polygamist Amod Majon only to satiate her father's greed for land. A heart-broken Ghuron heads out aimlessly leaving his mother alone. He comes to an unknown village and manages a job at a local businessman's warehouse where he

meets Kamakhhi, a Hindu youth working there. Kamakhhi has an affair with his master's daughter, which ultimately leads to his death. Ghuron first encounters the horrible side of the human nature.

Shocked at his friend's death in front of his eyes, Ghuron comes back to his village to find Chandura sent back to her father's house by her husband. Ghuron proposes to Chandura to marry her despite the fact that she was pregnant. But Amod Majon again, takes Chandura back in order to win the election.

Ghuron, refused by his beloved, again sets adrift. He goes to the hills and meets vibrant dance teacher and rights activist Somani, who leads a deprived indigenous community. Soon after Ghuron starts living with the indigenous people, another crisis arises. The influential church tries to grab their lands in the name of building a church. Somani protests the issues but she disappears suddenly. Even in the hills, Ghuron comes across conspiracy and deception.

Ghuron again returns home and finds that his childhood friend Aghor is dead. Aghor was killed by Amod Majon as he tried to stop Amod from taking Chandura

again, but Chandura was sent back after her husband has won the election. This time Chandura agrees to Ghuron's proposal. But when she gives birth to a baby boy, Amod takes her back. All these events lead to the disillusionment of Ghuron. Unable to tolerate the injustice, Ghuron loses sanity and blinds himself.

Although rather lengthy (spanning two hours), the play never feels stretched, but rather packs humorous scenes and dialogues throughout. The play excellently uses dark humour to satirise the vices of human beings.

"Kuhokjal" casts Ramendu Majumdar and Ferdausi Majumdar, along with Tanveer Ahmed, Tofa Hossain, Kalyan Chowdhury, Tanjiam Ara Poilli, Kawas Rajib and many others.

Masum Reza, who is equally adept in writing scripts for both theatre and television -- has incorporated humour very well, making the play entertaining. Tropa Majumdar, on the other hand, gives the script a solid visual interpretation. Imran Hossen Piya has designed the stage; background scores and choreography were done respectively by Theatre Ganwala and Tahmina Islam.

## Pipra Bidya hits screens in October

A CORRESPONDENT

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's latest film "Pipra Bidya" is set to hit the silver screens on October 24 across the country. Farooki and his team members are now busy with their release campaign. Lead actor of the film, Nur Imran Mithu will be introduced through a finny video which will release this month online and on Channel i. Gradually, soundtracks of the film will also be available. All the updates about the film will be available on Channel i and Chabial's Facebook page.

Since its premiere in Dubai Film Festival, "Pipra Bidya" has already received a number of award nominations, including Shanghai Golden Goblet Awards, MHR Asia-Africa Awards and Dallas Asian Film Awards.

The film casts Sheena Chohan, Noor Imran Mithu, Muklit Jakaria, Mou Debnath RJ Sabbir and others.



## "We just want to touch people's hearts with our work"

-- Kankan Das

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Kankan Das is one of the most prominent names in Chittagong's theatre arena. In a career spanning 25 years, she has given innumerable memorable performances in some of the biggest plays to be produced from the port city. Aside from that, she is also a cornerstone of Proma Abritti Sangsad, a leading recitation group in Chittagong.

In a recent conversation, the thespian shared various aspects of her works and the cultural scenario of Chittagong.

Tell us about your journey through the realm of theatre and elocution. Kankan: I joined Protibhas Natya Sangsad in 1989, and shortly after, associated myself with recitation group Proma Abritti Sangsad. I've been with them for quite some time now, and I also work with other theatre troupes and cultural groups, including Arindam Natya Sampradaya, Uttaradhihar, Nandonik, and also in some joint productions with India, Pakistan and Thailand that we've staged at home and abroad.

As an elocutionist, aside from performing with Proma, I have directed a number of their productions. One of the more notable ones is Jasimuddin's "Sujon Badia'r Ghat". What is the theatre scenario like in Chittagong?

Kankan: We have some serious connoisseurs of theatre here in Chittagong, who forms our regular audience. But to be honest, we have



respect I get from my troupe members, and the appreciation and critique I get from discerning audiences is good enough for me.

Tell us about the recitation scenario of the port city. Kankan: I think there's a lot of activity on this front. If I speak about my group, Proma has already done a production of "Shob Kichu Noshoto'der Odhikare Jabe"; we've commemorated Shamsur Rahman, and Humayun Azad, within this month alone. Not just that, elocutionists are always voicing their opinion about any social cause or incidents, and talking to the streets -- in protest and in solidarity.

What is keeping you occupied these days? Kankan: Right now, I'm working on a new play with Arindam, and another with the Chittagong unit of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Apart from that, a number of plays that I'm part of are being staged regularly, so that keeps me busy (smiles).

Your dreams of Chittagong's cultural arena... Kankan: There are so many dreams, but they are far-fetched because we have shortcomings too. But we will have to work to overcome those. In the end, the dream is to touch people's hearts with our work, and hope that they can touch ours. There are infrastructural and logistical obstacles of course, and if we can overcome that, I strongly believe we can take the cultural scenario of Chittagong far ahead.

n't been able to draw the layman. I feel that the people here are yet to feel the 'hunger' of watching theatre. There is a gap that we aren't able to bridge. Most people that come to see our plays are our personal invitees.

Theatre is often not given its due in the country, despite the hard work

of the artists. Does this bother you?

Kankan: I think we, theatre artists, are sort of okay with the fact that we will not be in the limelight, nor do we want it too much. I never try to balance what I've achieved and what I've given to theatre. The love and

## Mou's upcoming Eid play

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular TV model and actress Sadiya Islam Mou recently appeared in a one-hour play "Guam", directed by Mahmud Dider, marking upcoming Eid-ul-Adha. Shatabdi Wadud is cast opposite her. The duo acted for the first time as on-screen couple in the drama, based on a sensational story.

"Working with Mou has been a remarkable experience", said Shatabdi Wadud. On the other hand, Mou has been seen on screen occasionally in recent times. She was seen acting for the small screen during the last Eid. The actress will also appear in several plays in the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha.

Regarding "Guam", Mou said she worked in the play because she found the plot excellent.



## Sajal's BIG SCREEN emergence

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Sajal, a popular face on the small screen, has made headway in the celluloid world as well. The shooting for his new movie wrapped up recently. In a recent conversation, the talented actor spoke to The Daily Star about his tryst with films and TV dramas.

Tell us about your debut film. Sajal: The shooting for "Runout", directed by Tanmoy Tansen, is over. I also finished dubbing for the film. It is likely to be released after Eid, although it depends on the producer. I play a very ordinary teenage boy who accidentally enters the crime world. Later, he can't extricate himself from the underworld. In a nutshell, it is a movie on contemporary issues.

Where was the film shot, and how was the experience? Sajal: Chittagong, Bandarban, Rangamati, Cox's Bazar, Gazipur, Manikganj and Dhaka. It took me a very busy year to prepare for the role. I had to lose 4 kgs to look like a young boy. I also learnt fighting and dancing for the role.

What are your celluloid ambitions? Sajal: I would like to work regularly in

cinema, but maybe not more than two or three movies a year. However, it all depends on getting a good filmmaker and script.

Who are your favourite film artists in the country? Sajal: Razzak, Babita, Moushumi, late Zafar Iqbal and Salman Shah.

Have you signed up for any new work recently? Sajal: I have signed up for one recently, and another is underway. Within a few days, I can let my fans know of the details of the project.

Any memorable shooting experience on the "Runout" sets? Sajal: There was a shot of a torture scene where I was thrown into a tub of water with my hands and legs tied up. At that time, I became very weak as I could not breathe. However, no one on set could realise the depth of my discomfort until after the shot, when I told the entire unit.

Will your TV audiences be deprived if you get too busy with films? Sajal: Never. I have reached my current position and am a known name only because of this medium. I'm not leaving television.



## STAR MELODIES' MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO NAZRUL ON AUGUST 24

STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To celebrate National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam ahead of his 38th death anniversary, Star Melodies is organising a special musical evening on August 24. The programme will feature a selection of the first recorded songs of Kazi Nazrul Islam by noted artists of his time -- including Nazrul himself, performed by reputed Nazrul artists of our times.

The event, to be held at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, will have performances by Sumon Chowdhury, Dalia

Nausheen, Fatema Tuz Zohora, Khairul Anam Shakil, Nashid Kamal and Sujit Mustafa, while eminent cultural personality Kamal Lohani will speak at the event. Noted Nazrul exponent Sadya Areen Mallick will complete the programme.

Anyone interested to join the programme can contact the Administration Department of The Daily Star on 9144330 (Hunting) or 8124944 between 11am-5pm to enroll their names, on basis of the accommodation availability, as seats are limited.

The event is being held in association with Eastern Bank Limited.



## THE OTHER SIDE

### "Music lets me say things I otherwise can't"

--PULY



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Nazifa Tabassum Puly's introduction to music happened when she was only in the first grade, and though it has changed forms and dynamics over the years, her bond with music has only grown stronger. Mostly self-taught as a musician, she plays a number of instruments and sings her heart out whenever she has a break from her studies in architecture at BUET. The Daily Star caught up with her for Star Arts & Entertainment's new monthly feature The Other Side, featuring amateur artists pursuing their passion besides studies or profession.

"I was admitted to a music class when I was very young, just beginning to go to school. It was an institution called 'Hindol', which is not there anymore. But I didn't continue there for long. I later tried to get an academic training a few times, but did not get too far with it. I learned music at Nazrul Academy, and was also a part of the 'Notun Kuri' TV show. I guess what I didn't really like was that there were exams and numbers involved, as there were competitions to who does better than others. I did not get that. I felt like it should be something I do because I enjoy doing it. So the institutional part did not really fare well with me," she says of her early music days.

"When I was in the eighth grade, my sister brought home a guitar, and we both started learning from chords she would note down on her diary. I went to Sandhi bhaiya (singer-composer Khaiyam Sanu Sandhi) for a while to learn guitar,

but then continued on my own. Since I had training in harmonium, I had some idea of how musical notes worked, and I developed it. Then, out of interest, I started learning flute, by myself." When asked how she managed to get a grasp of a string instrument and a wind instrument from knowledge of a reed instrument, she smiles and says "They're kind of similar. The notes go from low to high. It's the same sequence. I've also learned a bit of harmonica by myself, and now looking to learn to play the keyboard. I just got a ukulele for my birthday, looking forward to that too," she adds.

About her fascination with instruments, Puly says "Instruments lets me think in layers. Like in a guitar or a keyboard, several notes in harmony make up a chord. With voice it's just one layer, but instruments are more layered. I like that." Asked why she does music, Puly says "Music lets me say things I otherwise can't. For example if I say I'm sad, a hundred other people are also sad, so how do I express what my sadness is? Music lets me do that. Like when I'm playing my flute, it's speaking for me -- and that too in a universal language. And music inspires me in so many forms. I find inspiration from Pink Floyd and Radiohead, and also from Lalon and Radharaman."

On the question whether she'll take music as a profession, Puly is divided. "It would be awesome if I could do something that I thoroughly enjoy for a living. But I don't want to have to do music to pay bills. So maybe I'll find time from being an architect and do my music," she comes to a conclusion.

## Batikrom's tribute to Mohidul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Batikrom Natya Goshthi is set to observe the 12th death anniversary of noted playwright, actor and director Syed Mohidul Islam. Marking the day, the troupe will hold a discussion and stage their play "Firey Dekha" at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today evening. The play has been directed by Mohidul Islam based on Chandan Sen's story.

Syed Mohidul Islam was born in 1946 in Bagerhat district. After finishing his graduation from Dhaka University, he went to Pakistan and later India, to pursue his post graduation in dramatics. After coming back to Bangladesh, he founded Batikrom. Later he established a school of acting in 1984. He directed 33 plays for Batikrom and many more for radio and television. He also directed two films and translated many plays in Bangla. Tomorrow is the 12th death anniversary of Syed Mohidul Islam.

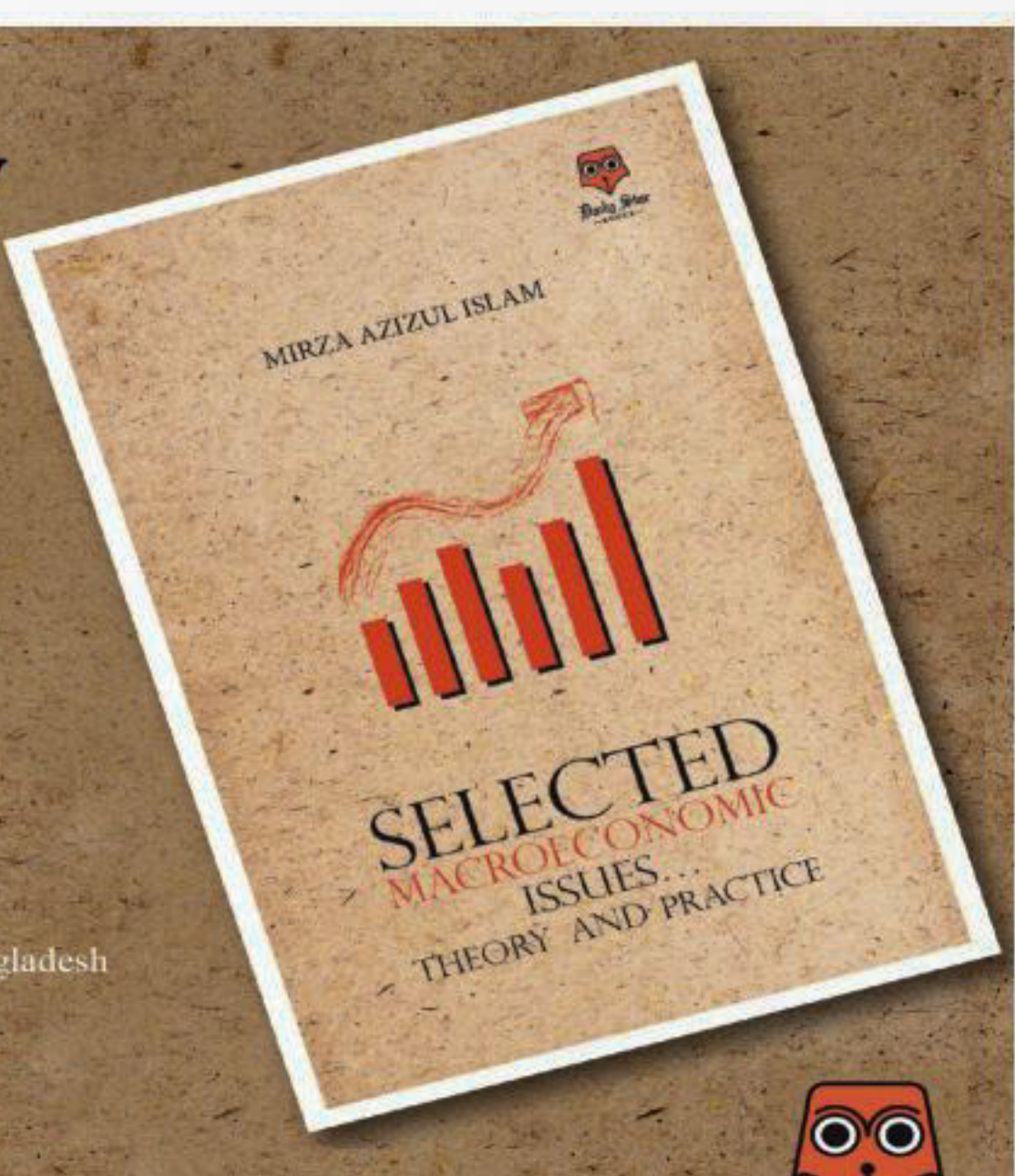


Noted thespian Nasiruddin Yousuff (R) receives "Natyacharya Selim Al Deen Award-2014" from Ramendu Majumdar, World President of International Theatre Institute. Swapnada's five-day theatre fest marking Selim Al Deen's birthday concluded Wednesday evening through the award-giving ceremony. Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Liaquat Ali Lucky was also present at the programme, held at the Experimental Theatre Hall of BSA.

DAILY STAR BOOKS CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO  
BOOK LAUNCHING CEREMONY

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by  
MIRZA AZIZUL ISLAM

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Venue: A.S. Mahmud Seminar Hall,  
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Date: 23/08/2014 (Saturday) Time: 4.30 pm  
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