

## WHAT'S ON

**MURTAJA BASEER**  
Solo Art Exhibition  
Artist: Murtaja Baseer  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara  
Date: Sep 13-25  
Time: 11am-8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Montage  
Artist: Samarjit Roy Chowdhury  
Venue: Bengal Shikshapala, Dharmadoli  
Date: Sep 6-22

**Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: BotTala  
Venue: Natamandal, Dhaka University  
Date: Sep 10-13  
Time: 7:15pm

**Solo Classical Recital**  
Artist: Pandit Tushar Dutta  
Organiser: IGCC  
Venue: IGCC Gulshan-1  
Date: Sep 13  
Time: 6:30pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Rajasol  
Troupe: Subachan Natya Sangsad  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall  
Date: Sep 13  
Time: 7pm

**Painting Exhibition**  
Colours of friendship by contemporary Indian artists  
Venue: Dhaka Art Center  
Time: 3pm-8pm  
Date: Sep 12-18  
Inauguration: Sep 12 at 5:30pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Dalgor  
Troupe: People's Little Theatre  
Venue: Music and Dance Auditorium, Shikshapala Academy  
Date: Sep 13; Time: 6:30pm

## NEWS bytes

## Bond villain Richard Kiel dies



Actor Richard Kiel - who played steel-toothed villain Jaws in two James Bond films - has died in California aged 74. The 7ft 2in towering American star made his name as cable-chomping henchman Jaws opposite Roger Moore as 007. Sir Roger said he was "totally distraught" at the death of his co-star.

The character of Jaws in "The Spy Who Loved Me" was originally intended to die at the end of the movie, but he was so popular with fans that Kiel was brought back to reprise the role in "Moonraker".

Sandro Monetti, director at Bafta in Los Angeles and a former showbiz reporter, described Kiel as having "teeth of steel, but a heart of gold".

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Kiel had the hormonal condition acromegaly, which was said to have contributed to his height. His first break came in 1959 when he played the alien Kanamit in "Twilight Zone".

Source: BBC

## IT'S TRUE!



Britney Spears founded The Britney Spears Foundation, a charitable entity set up to help children in need. The philosophy behind the Foundation was that music and entertainment has a healing quality that can benefit children. In April 2002, through the efforts of Britney Spears and the Foundation, a grant of \$1 million was made to the Twin Towers Fund to support the children of uniformed service heroes affected by the attacks of September 11, 2001 (on the Twin Tower).

## Tributes pour in

## Paeon to Nazrul's songbird: Feroza Begum

ZAHANGIR ALAM

A number of artistes, painters, politicians, civil servants and cultural and eminent personalities paid their last homage to the legendary Nazrul Sangeet artiste and exponent Feroza Begum at the Central Shaheed Minar premises on September 10. This writer caught up with several artistes, painters and cultural personalities to portray their soulful tributes and paeans to the Nazrul's Songbird Feroza Begum. Excerpts:

## Abul Maal Abdul Muhit, finance minister

I have received much affection from Feroza Begum. Today I am here to pay my homage to the timeless artiste.

## Mustafa Monwar, eminent artist

The giant-like tree of Nazrul Sangeet and the best musical genius we lost! No other artiste can depict the sublime mood with entertaining and presentational facets of Nazrul Sangeet, especially the devotional and love songs of the bard that Feroza Apa exquisitely portrayed with melodious voice and uplifting mood. I have seen her from my childhood. Her brother Mohammad Asafuddowla was my classmate. My father Poet Golam Mostafa was affectionate towards her. She was like my own elder sister. I have many fond memories with her. When BTV was run from DIT building, I directed several programmes on her. She rendered many songs including the one "Tajmahal". She was extremely sincere. Will we find such an artiste again?

## Hashem Khan, eminent artist

I was fascinated when I listened to her songs in the 50s. I first heard her in Akashbani. I had heard Nazrul Sangeet earlier, but never found anyone close to her rendition style. That was a rapturous feeling. She attracted many with her charisma, and rendition. Due to her effort, Nazrul Sangeet got immense popularity. Her efforts, Nazrul's affection and her husband Kamol Dasgupta's tutelage made her so powerful that she touched the heights. Feroza Begum is our wealth. Bangladesh takes pride in her.

## Shaheen Samad, noted singer

It is an extremely courageous effort initiated by Feroza Apa, she started her singing at the time when Muslim women were forced by conservatism to stay indoors. Ignoring all hurdles, she marched forward with Nazrul Sangeet. Feroza Apa will never die, she will shine bright in the hearts and conscience of lakhs of her fans and admirers. We should have highlighted her image, which we failed to do.

## Dalia Nausheen, noted Nazrul singer

We have learnt music from her. Feroza Apa's mellifluous voice, distinctive rendition style are what made her a great artiste. She could properly judge our rendition of Nazrul Sangeet, whether we are up to the mark or not in any song. She was equally popular in her offering of Nazrul Sangeet, adiunik song and Urdu ghazals. She has left behind an opulent treasure trove, a legacy both for the present and forthcoming generation of artistes. She is regarded as the uncrowned empress of Nazrul Sangeet in the Indian subcontinent, but what have we done for her?

## Yakub Ali Khan, noted Nazrul singer

Every time I approached her, I got fascinated. I have received affection from her. Feroza Apa filled the vacuum



in Nazrul Sangeet. She made, other singers, including Manabendra Mukherjee, learn and carry forward the beautiful musical legacy of Kazi Nazrul Islam. Nazrul Sangeet has now achieved completeness. When she started her mission, only 35 songs were completed.

## Salahuddin Ahmed, noted Nazrul singer

Unfortunately, when Nazrul fell ill in 1942, many artistes who popularised Nazrul Sangeet changed their tracks and the bard's songs become a bit neglected. Only

Manabendra Mukherjee and Feroza Begum, especially the latter with her divine voice, created both the artistic and commercial value of Nazrul Sangeet. Allah gave her such a quality to attract people with her voice. For that reason, Nazrul Sangeet has endured. They created a fertile field for us where we are prevailing. We have done nothing. Being such an eminent artiste, she would always guide us and even listen to us. We could not place her in the highest position. As an artiste and teacher it is my great shame!

## Maftul Haque, cultural activist and writer

Feroza Begum resurrected and gave life to Nazrul Sangeet. The biggest repository of Nazrul Sangeet was Kamol Dasgupta. She exceeded three barriers - family, religion and state, to reach the heights of excellence. All she achieved was through her music. The life that she led was musical. Her rendition enriched the entire gamut of Bangla music. We hope new generation artistes will pursue her sublime path. We are fortunate that we have grown up listening to the legendary songbird.

## Bizon Chandra Mistry, Nazrul singer

The brightest star has fallen! I regard Feroza Apa and Nazrul as two sides of the same coin. Feroza Begum solely steered the wheel of Nazrul Sangeet in a critical time when the genre's popularity seemed declining. We are now devoid of a guardian.

## Yousuf Ahmed Khan, singer

She is like a saint for me. The sun of Bangla music sets with her demise. She is second to none. We are yet to properly honour our National Poet, while Feroza Begum, a star, passes away silently.

## Mortaz Parveen, Nazrul enthusiast

Feroza Begum was kept bogged down in our mean national psyche. An artiste of her stature was not held high. We have also kept Nazrul in constrained circumstances. In my childhood I have heard the cowherds rendering the patriotic song "O Bhai Khati Sonar Cheye Khati Amar Desh-e-Mati", but now the scenario has changed.

## Sadya Aftab Khan, noted Nazrul artiste and journalist

In earlier times the media and singing were literally prohibited among the Muslim community. At that time, Feroza Apa single-handedly struggled and avoided hindrances to take music to such a height which is unparalleled. She tirelessly worked to diffuse Nazrul Sangeet across the world. I hope the present generation of artistes will listen to her songs and try to understand the songs of a devotee in order to comprehend, practice and perform songs. She recorded all the genres of Nazrul Sangeet. "Chander Konniya Chand Sultana Chander Cheye Jyoti". The lines are apt for none other than Feroza Apa.

The Baul is gone, but his tunes are not ...  
Shah Abdul Karim's 5th death anniversary

FAHMIH FERDOUS

When Baul Shah Abdul Karim breathed his last in a clinic in Sylhet, on this day five years ago, he probably did not know how far his music had reached. Born and raised in the bhati regions of Sunamganj, Sylhet, he never received academic education, but the lessons he learned and taught from deep within his soul, are not the kind you find in school books.

Growing up in an impoverished family could not hinder his search for the meaning of life - in many ways, as Abdul Karim drew inspiration from nature and his surroundings to musically express himself from an early age. Under the tutelage of baul Shah Ibrahim Mastan Baksh, he absorbed the philosophies preached for centuries by spiritual bards, and delved deeper into them. His ekara resonated on the banks of river Kalni, one of his lifelong muses, as he encapsulated the deepest of life's questions into his

simplicistic words and sweet, soothing melodies.

Although he was a regular artiste of Sylhet Betar in the '70s after the Liberation War, the first work of him to reach a wider audience was "Ei Duniya Maya'r Jaale Bandha" used in the film "Bedween" in the eighties. Eventually, some of his songs were rendered by mainstream artistes, and found a place in the hearts of music aficionados. Be it Dalchhut's version of "Gari Choley Na" or Habib Wahid's arrangement of "Agye Ki Shundor Din Kataitam", his music found a way to seep into the hearts of people all over the country. "Kon Mestori Nao Banaise", "Bonde Maya Lagaise", "Keno Piriti Baraila Rey Bondhu" and "Krishno Aila Radha'r Kunje" are just a handful of the 1500-plus songs that the minstrel wrote, in six books - "Aftab Sangeet" (dedicated to his loving wife Aftabunnesa), "Gono Sangeet", "Kalni'r Dheu", "Bhati'r Chithi", "Kalni'r Kuley" and "Dol-Mela".

What stood about Baul Shah Abdul Karim's music was its simplicity - be in words or melodies, and that is why contemporary, urban musicians could embrace them. But the contents of his songs were as thought-provoking as any: from "Mon Majhi Tor Manob Tori" or "Kemone Chinibo Tomare" about connecting to a higher spiritual form, to "Gari Choley Na" or "Kon Mestori" in which both the marvel and frailty of the physical existence of human beings were explored. He spoke of secularism and harmonious coexistence, in songs like "Agye Ki Shundor Din Kataitam" from murshidi, marfati and dehotatwa to love and separation have all come up in his works. He spoke of social awareness - about matters like family planning, and of awakening - from the Language Movement to the Mass Uprising of '69 to the Liberation War - his words have inspired people of his region.

Most of the recognition and honours

he received came very late in his life - the prestigious Ekushey Padak in 2001, the Meril-Prothom Alo Lifetime Achievement in 2004, Geywell Channel Music Awards 2005, UN Bangladesh Honours on UN International Day for Older Persons in 2006 and Shikshapala Academy Honours in 2008 - all came when he was in or around his 90s.

In whatever form his music has been adapted, from the melodious, soulful ones to the pop 'remix' ones, the messages he wanted to spread have surfaced above, and wherever he is, he must be looking down smiling every time a youngster walks on the streets of Dhaka, humming a tune of his. It's true that he suffered from financial crises all his life, and often did not due credit for the hits his songs produced when done by other artistes, but he was a bigger man than to hold grudges. He would be happy and content that he has reached his thoughts out to people, and touched their hearts.

## TV WATCH

## "Tomay Bhebey" on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

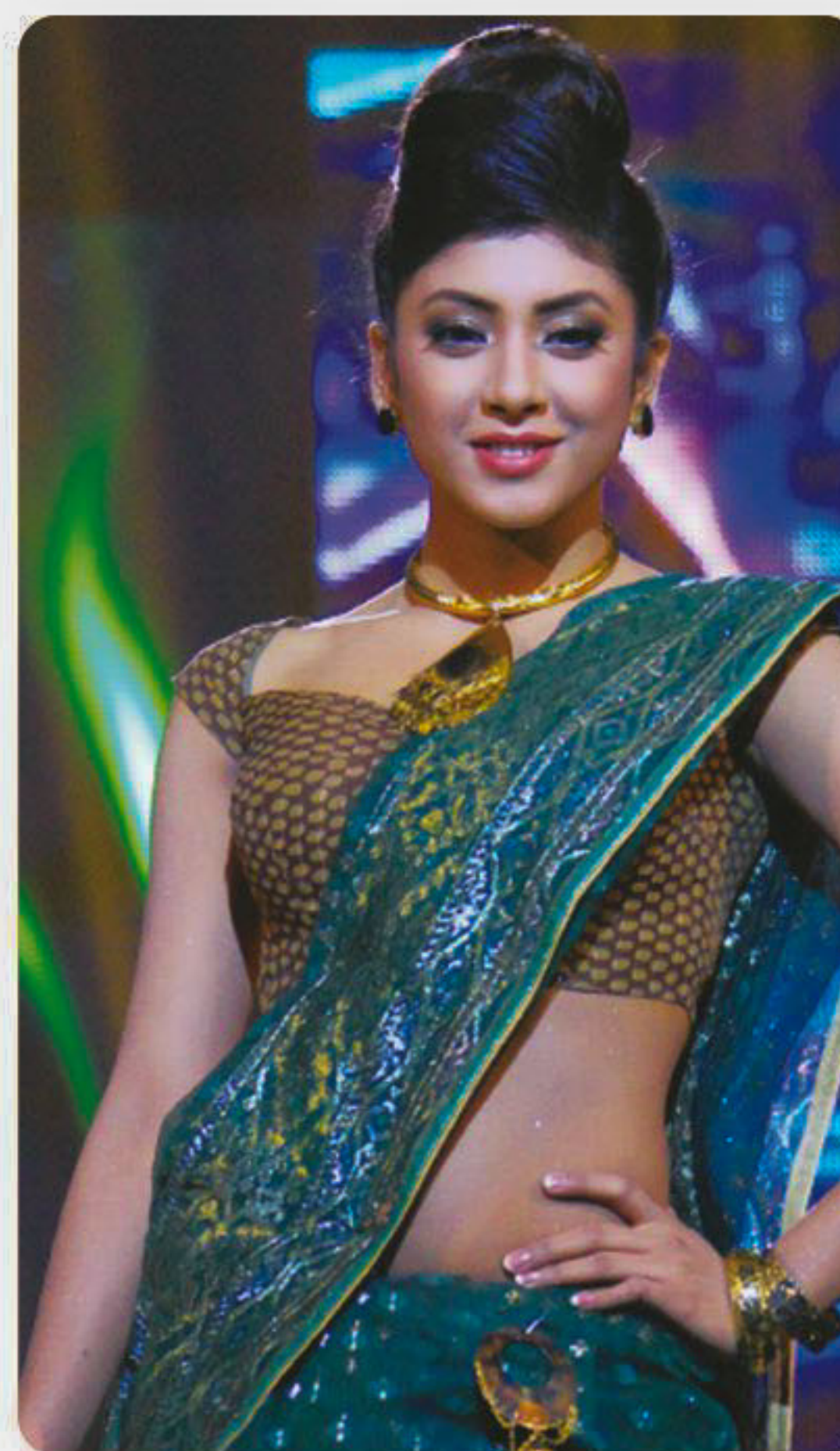
Single-episode TV play "Tomay Bhebey" will air on Maasranga television tonight at 7:50pm. Written by Sharmin Chowdhury Ifsita, the play has been directed by Rony Bhoomik.

The story surrounds Abir and Ohona, who are spending a happy conjugal life. Suddenly, Abir goes abroad on an official trip leaving Ohona alone. Ohona's friend Ria comes to meet her and discovers a strange Ohona.

Sajol and Momo have played lead roles in the play.



## Lux-Channel i Superstars in Jamdani



A CORRESPONDENT

The latest episode of the Lux-Channel i Superstars, to be aired on Channel i tonight at 9:35pm, will see the contestants in classic Bangalee attire - the Jamdani sari. They will choose a sari from fashion house Aarong and dress and make up accordingly, in an all-new look.

Renowned model Nobel will be the guest on tonight's episode, which is the seventh of this year's series.



PHOTO: RIDWAN AYOUB RUPON

## Konal @ DS Café

"Konal" is a name for the flower red lotus, and Somnur Monir Konal, one of the most popular young singers of this time, has been just as bright in the industry over the last few years. Since winning reality show "Chamel i Shera Kontho" in 2009, Konal gained skyrocketing popularity as a singer, especially among the youths. Since then, she has never had to look back - doing stage performance, live shows, playback singing and releasing a number of solo and mixed albums. But that is not her entire story. She, as an emcee, has also gained popularity, courtesy of her voice, presentation and glowing beauty.

Recently, the diva attended DS Café, the monthly programme of Arts & Entertainment, as the celebrity of the month. Her fans from different parts of the country engaged in a Q&A session with Konal. Excerpts:

**Labonno, Dhaka:** What's the necessity of revaw (practice) for a singer?

**Konal:** Rewaz is an absolute necessity for a singer. Without which, a singer cannot go far. Practice makes one perfect and for an artiste, it's a must.

**Sabbir, Chittagong:** Why do you do music?

**Konal:** Music is my love. I cannot imagine myself without music. This is not solely because I do music, but I have zeal for music. It is difficult to find a human being who doesn't love music.

**Papel, Noakhali:** Who were the first persons on your mind when you wore the crown of Shera Kantho?

**Konal:** First I remembered my mother and then father. After that, I heartily thanked the almighty. My mother has tremendous contribution behind my achievement in the reality show. Her dedication and inspiration were behind my success. And for that I recalled her first.

**Rony, Dhaka University:** Who has the greatest contribution behind your present position?

**Konal:** Firstly my parents, and then my mejo-mama (maternal uncle). He has a lot of contribution behind my present success. **Shamim, Dhaka:** May I know about your ancestral residence?

**Konal:** My ancestral house is in Singair Upazilla of Manikganj.

**Lajuk, Dhaka:** How did the people from Kuwait inspire you to sing?

**Konal:** Many people from Kuwait tremendously encouraged me to sing. Though I cannot name them specifically I will always be grateful to them.

**Taniha, Dhaka:** Do you think singers should have social responsibilities?

**Konal:** I think every singer has social responsibility. Not only singers, but every citizen has social responsibilities.

**Kamal Parvez, Tangail:** Tell me something about your next album?

**Konal:** I am currently working on my next album. I want to make tracks subject-specific. This album will be different from my previous albums for which I am taking time. I don't want to do it in haste.

**Fanuk, Gazipur:** How is your playback singing going on?

**Konal:** Recently I sang in a number of films. And I assure my listeners and fans that they'll get to hear me soon in a number of upcoming films.

**Sajal, Savar:** How many foreign trips did you recently have?

**Konal:** I did a number of stage shows recently. I went to USA to perform and

stayed there for quite a long. Then I went to Russia for another show and stayed there for a week. Kumar Biswajit was there too. My last trip was to Kuwait.

**Abir, Chittagong:** What was your first solo album?

**Konal:** My first solo album was "Jadu". **Shaon, Savar:** Which instrument do you like to play most?

**Konal:** I love to play tanpura but my heart lies with sitar. The tune of sitar enhances my mood. I am a die-hard fan of Anoushka Shankar, daughter of Pandit Ravi Shankar. I have listened to all her albums.

**Rajani, Dhaka:** What is the necessity of music videos?

**Konal:** I think music videos are necessary since listeners are, nowadays, not only content with the voice. Rather they want corresponding visualisation which can bring mood to songs. That's why music videos are essential. In India, the trend of music video came into mainstream long ago, but we are yet to fully adopt it.

**Toma, Rajshahi:** Do you have any interest in acting?

**Konal:** No, I don't. I have no idea why people ask me this question. At present, I am giving undivided attention to music.

**Sagor Chowdhury, Sylhet:** To what extent is it necessary for an artiste to be a good person?

**Konal:** An artiste has to be a good person first. Not only is it necessary for an artiste, but every individual has to be a good person.

**Sajib, Mymensingh:** Many singers are coming into limelight through reality shows. How many of them actually survive in the long run?

**Konal:** Competitions undoubtedly create a strong platform for enthusiasts. This is definitely a great initiative without which many couldn't have appeared in the music scene. But once the competition ends, contestants have to do everything on their own. It is necessary to practice in order to survive in the competitive market. There is no alternative to hard work for a singer.

Following the Q&A session, Konal also performed for the audience - members of The Daily Star Family - who had gathered at the auditorium. She started with a Nazrul Sangeet "Anjali Loho More", followed by a handful of her favourite songs, including Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah's "Amar Bhor Bahire", and ended with a patriotic song "Sunder Suborno".

Transcribed by Shah Alam Shauzu



## "Finding Fanny is one of a kind film" ... Amitabh Bachchan

Addressing guests at a promotional event, Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan gushed about the upcoming movie, "Finding Fanny", describing it as one of a kind cinematic experience.

The actor was invited for a special screening of the movie in Mumbai.

"Yeah, we rarely get to see something like this and I'm so, so honoured to be here with them," said Bachchan.

Actress Deepika Padukone had invited Bachchan, with whom she is working in another movie.

The movie, which is satirical, revolves around the lives of five dysfunctional characters living in a sleepy village in Goa. Their lives take a twisted turn when the old village postman, played by Naseruddin Shah, receives a letter under his door that he had thought he had posted to the love of his life almost 50 years ago.

The film is directed by Homi Adajania and stars Deepika Padukone, Arjun Kapoor and veteran actors Naseruddin Shah, Pankaj Kapoor and Dimple Kapadia.

"Finding Fanny" is set to hit theatres on September 19.

Source: TOI



**Mahfuz Anam James, one of the most popular singers of the country, recently appeared on the Indian musical TV competition "SarReGaMaPa" on Zee Bangla, for two episodes. The first of the two episodes will air tonight on Zee Bangla at 10:30pm, while the second episode will air tomorrow at the same time.**



Theatre troupe BotTala conferred the "Nasiruddin Nadim Padak" - commemorating their recently-deceased activist, to the troupe's member Imran Khan Munna, at their four-day, 6th anniversary celebrations. Thespian Sara Zaker handed over the prize to Munna, for his dedication and contribution to the troupe, on Wednesday. BotTala staged their acclaimed play "Khona" on the first two days of the event at the Natmandol of Dhaka University, and will stage their new production "The Trial of Mallam Ilya" today and tomorrow at the same venue.