

WHAT'S ON

Aly Zaker Celebration
Organiser: Nagarik Natya Sampradaye
Venue: National Art Gallery Plaza, Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 6
Time: 6:30pm

Photography Exhibition
Celebrating Life Chapter II
Organiser: BMSS
Venue: Drik Gallery
Date: Nov 26-27

Dance Festival
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium
Date: Nov 7-8
Time: 6:15pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Syed Hasan Mahmud
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi
Date: Oct 24-Nov 15
Time: 12-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
The Dhaka Print Club Show
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan Avenue
Date: October 25- November 8
Time: 12pm-8pm

NEWS bytes

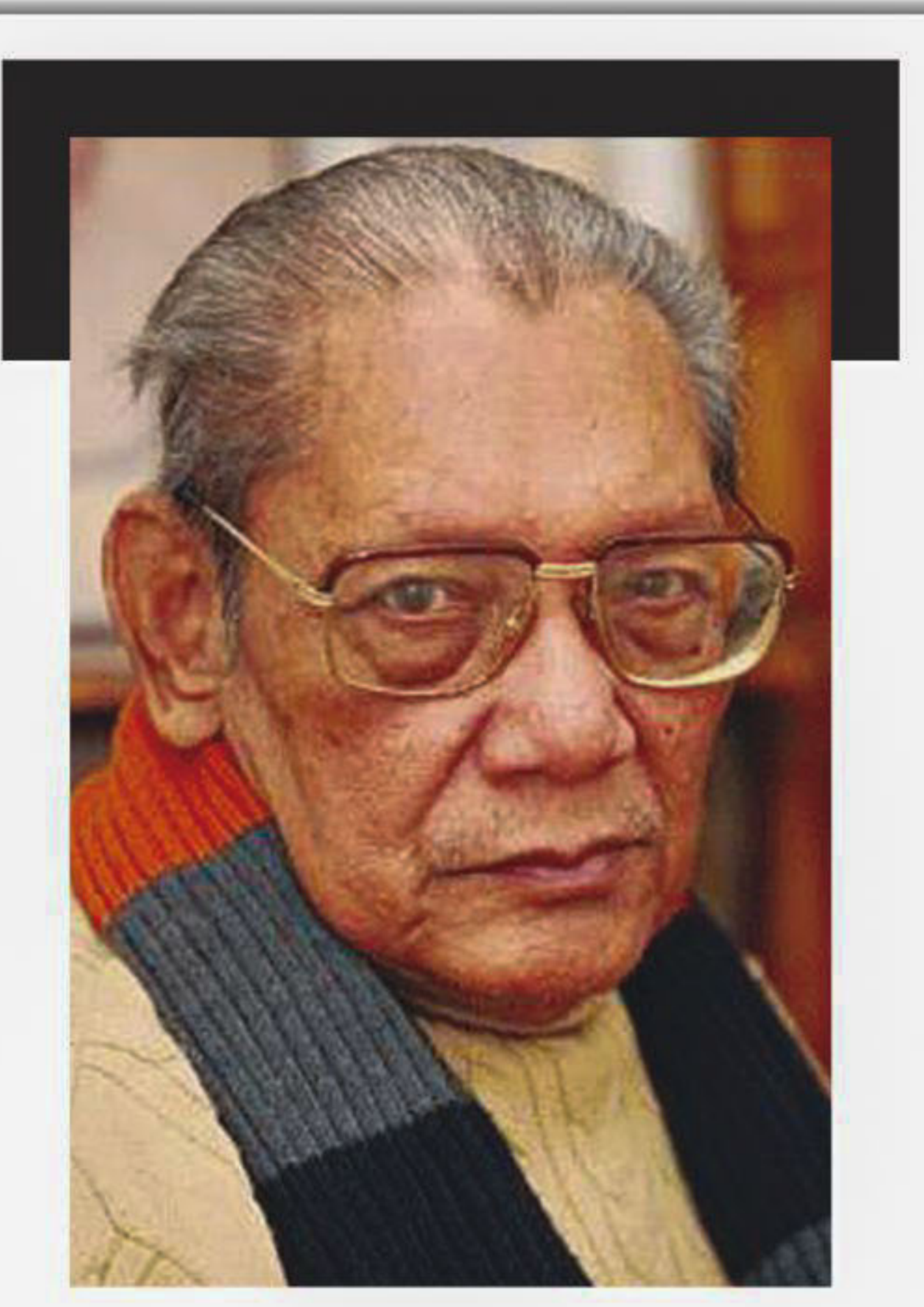
"Now You See Me 2" casts Radcliffe-Caplan

Daniel Radcliffe, Lizzy Caplan and Taiwanese star Jay Chou have come on board "Now You See Me 2". Lionsgate has announced that both Radcliffe and Caplan will be officially part of the cast, playing characters named Walter and Lula, respectively. Mark Ruffalo, Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Dave Franco, Morgan Freeman and Michael Caine will reprise their roles. Last year's "Now You See Me" was a surprise success with over \$350 million in worldwide box office. Jon M. Chu is directing the sequel which is set to release in June, 2016. The plot will still revolve around the Four Horsemen, one year after the first film. The group's services are enlisted by an enemy who asks them to partake in one of the Horsemen's most dangerous heists yet.



IT'S TRUE!

Aston Kutcher attended the University of Iowa and majored in Biochemical Engineering with the hope of finding a cure for his fraternal twin brother Michael's septal heart defect and cerebral palsy. However, he dropped out to pursue modeling after winning the Fresh Faces of Iowa modeling competition. Kutcher was the first Twitter user to get one million followers, beating CNN in the Million Followers Contest in 2009.



Veteran singer Mohammad Ali Siddiqui passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Veteran singer Mohammad Ali Siddiqui passed away due to old-age complications at his residence in Dhaka on November 4. He was 70. He died at around at 9:15am at his Mirpur Section 2 house, according to Suraya Siddiqui, widow of the deceased. He was buried at Mirpur Intellectual Graveyard after his Namaz-e-Janaza at Masjidul Fitir at Mirpur-2 after Asar prayers on the day. He left behind his wife, three daughters and a host of relatives, fans and well wishers to mourn his death. Siddiqui sang numerous hit songs and recorded songs for about 250 popular Bangla films during the '60s and '70s. He performed both on Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar for three decades.

Eminent singer Khurshid Alam said, "A very sincere artiste Mohammad Ali Siddiqui started his career in 1965. Late singer Mahmudun Nabi, Abdul Jabbar, Syed Abdul Hadi, Mohammad Ali Siddiqui and I started career in Bangladesh Betar. "Bashi Baje Oi Dur-e", recorded by him is a hit song. The song 'Hoi Hoi Hoi Rongila Rongila Rey', lip-synched by Razzak, in the film Rangbaaj brought about a revolution during the 60s. Many films were commercial hits due to his melodic songs. He recorded maximum songs under legendary Satya Saha's music direction. Besides, he worked with Gazi Mazharul Anwar, Dr. Maniruzzaman and others. He was very simple in heart, stylish, reticent and amiable. May Allah rest him in Jannat."

Another eminent singer Abdul Jabbar said, "We (Late Mamudun Nabi, Basir Ahmed, Mohammad Faruk and I) together started our career in the 60s. He was a singer with very passionate voice. He was like my younger brother. His record "Bashi Baje Oi Dur-e" was immensely popular and still is. He recorded songs for Bangladesh Betar, BTV, Bangla films. Besides, he rendered many adhunik songs as well. I am sincerely thanking honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for financially assisting him while he was admitted to hospital. I am seeking salvation for his departed soul. May Allah offer him Jannat!"

"Heshe Khele Jibonta Jodi Choley Jaye", "Hoi Hoi Hoi Rongila Rongila Rey", "Shono Go Ruposhi Lalona", "Oi Dur Durantey" were some of his very popular Bangla songs. The artiste worked for Bangladesh Betar as a music director for several years. Mohammad Ali Siddiqui was born on February 2, 1944 at Netrokona district. He was awarded with several prizes including the National Award, Dinesh Padak, Bandhan Lifetime Award and Shilpakala Academy Award. The country has lost a genius and talented artiste with his death.

Many artistes, organisations, and different government bodies sent condolence for the departed soul and conveyed deepest sympathy to the bereaved family.

PIPRA BIDYA
Complex conflicts of the commoner

FILM REVIEW

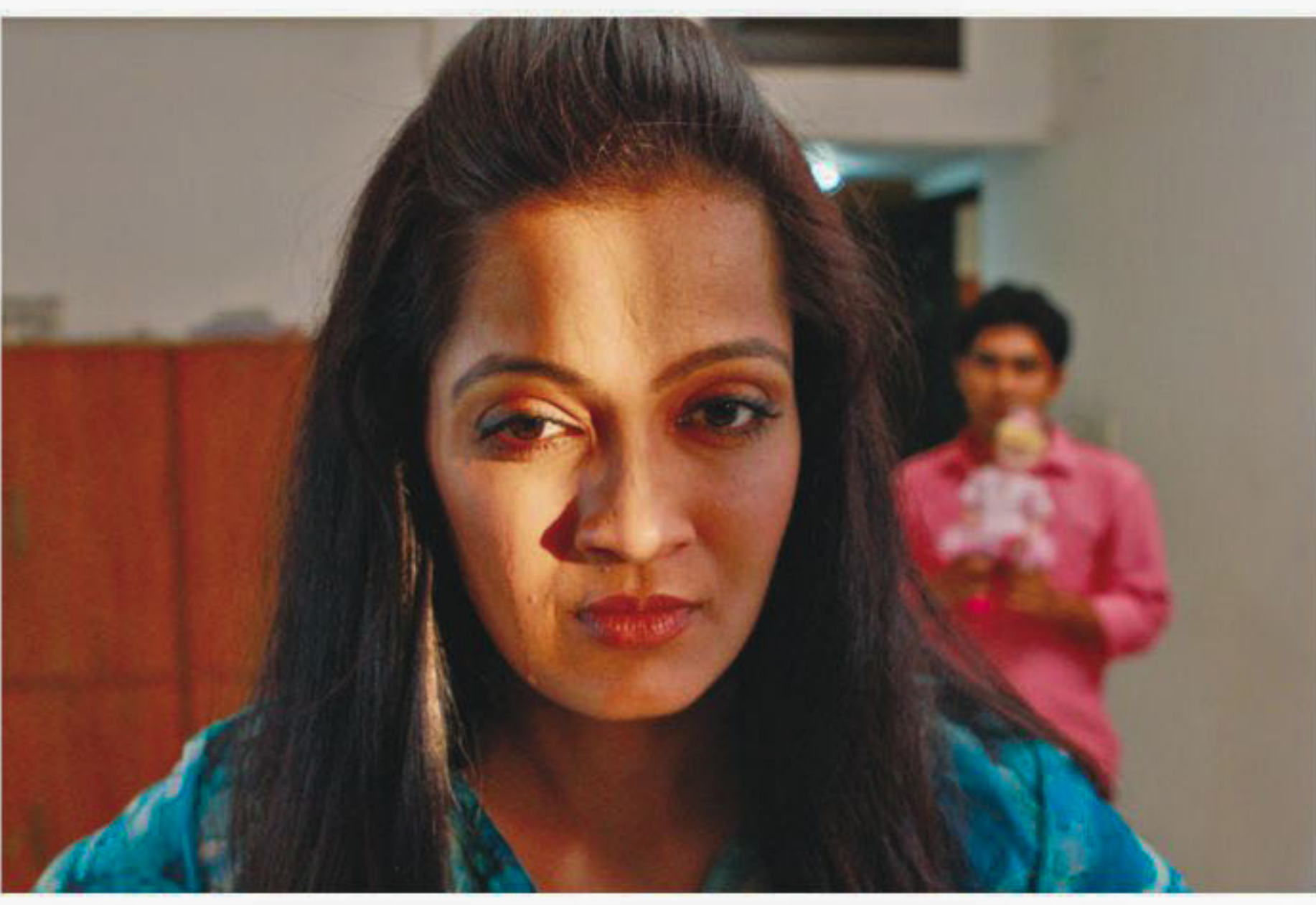
FAHMIM FERDOUS

Meet Mithu, the garden variety struggling youngster in desperation to find a job as pressure builds on him as the only provider for his lower-middle class family living 'on the other side of the river' of town. Fate hands him the strings to play puppeteer with someone's life; someone much bigger than him -- and the balance of the worlds begins to shift: at least their own ones, and of those around them.

In his latest release, "Pipra Bidya", Mostofa Sarwar Farooki picks a common man and attempts to tell an extraordinary story through him. With a small cast and a complex narrative, he delivers an ample plateful for the serious film connoisseur, but probably not for the average cinema-goer. As the ticket checker at Balaka Cineworld told this correspondent "I didn't love it. It's so much like a 'natak' (TV drama)." While Farooki has brought out the fine brushes to paint the visual picture, it could somewhat alienate him from those who come to the cinemas just to be entertained.

Without revealing the plot line, "Pipra Bidya" is the story of internal conflicts and a man's conscious alienation from reality. Various shades of the same personality are another fertile ground Farooki has treaded smartly, in a mature, assured manner.

In terms of cinematography, there is a bunch of superb elements. The cinematography -- particularly the metaphorical visual in the bedroom-scene involving Mithu and Rima (played by Sheena Chohan) and most stunningly in the ant-crawling-through-the-mouth shot, are fantastic. Most of the film



is shot indoors and inside vehicles, but the use of cityscape is clever in the boat journey to Keraniganj or the road trips through Hatirjheel, and a bit of Cox's Bazar is also thrown in to spruce up the backdrop. Camerawork is modern and interesting, helping the film look very 'international'. The cast, in general, also holds its own, in spite of some inconsistency. Noor Imran Mithu, who plays the character in his own name, delivers a complex character with astonishing ease. Sheena Chohan is a little wobbly in the opening sequences, but grows into the role and by the end, is almost flawless. The other central roles are also smooth, but some of the stock characters (for instance, the policemen) are not up to the mark, which leaves just that small bit of discomfort for the viewer, especially because the making otherwise is of such high standards.

The film has bits and pieces of a lot of good things -- a bit of dry humour, a lot of psychological-thriller elements, a current timeline and very good music (by Chirkutt) to bring the story close to the audience, but it's not handed to them on a silver platter. The audience must meet the story halfway, and it may take a while for the cinematic audience to grow that far, but for that to happen, what is needed most are films like this.

"I'm still learning"
-- Mehzabien



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Former Lux Superstar Mehzabien is now well into a career in television plays and TV commercials. The Daily Star interviewed the talented artiste about her life in front of and away from the arc lights. Excerpts:

Tell us about your last work in TVCs?
Mehzabien: "Banglalink Surprise" for mobile company Banglalink. The commercial, now on air, has become very popular.
When acting, which kind of characters attract you the most?
Mehzabien: Nothing in particular, but I'm always interested in playing new roles with fresh scripts.
Are you tense in front of the camera?
Mehzabien: No, but I feel nervous when there is a new shot. I'm still learning and want to be around on the media scene for a long time.
Is there any particular actor with whom you are keen to work?
Mehzabien: No. As my focus is always on adroit acting, it is up to the directors to cast my co-artist. But, I feel comfortable working with Sajal, Nayeem and Nisho.
Do you put in some homework before a shoot?
Mehzabien: I do, like reading the script several times over. Besides, I think deeply about my role and dialogues.
As an actress, how do you view yourself a few years down the line?
Mehzabien: Tough question. I believe that if you give your best and with sincerity, a happy ending is a must.
When do you prefer to shoot?
Mehzabien: During winter but we have a very long summer in our country. Those who haven't experienced our summers can't see how difficult it is to shoot in hot weather!

Admission opens for Bengal Parampara Sangeetalaya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The primary admission test for Bengal Foundation's Classical Music School "Bengal Parampara Sangeetalaya" will be held on November 13-15.



Bengal Foundation has taken the initiative to set up a classical music institution in order to teach and spread classical music in the country. Noted artistes and exponents of classical music will provide tuition to students. Interested students, who have elementary education in classical music, can register for the course.

Voice, skill in playing instruments, talent, interest and commitment will be taken into consideration in selecting students for vocal and instrumental categories. Eligible students will receive free education along with a stipend for three months. Students excelling in the programme will become a Bengal Scholar and receive full scholarship after three months.

Noted classical music artistes of the sub-continent will conduct the primary tests. Interested students are asked to email at bps@bengalfoundation.org writing their name, address, subject of interest and contact number by November 10.

Tisha-Shakib pair up for "Mental"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tisha is set to act in Shamim Ahmed's upcoming film "Mental". The actress will play a television journalist, pairing up with Dhallywood superstar Shakib Khan for the first time. Confirming the news, Tisha said she had finalised the deal after reading the script. She also hoped that audience would appreciate her new role.

Tisha debuted in big screen with Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's "Third Person Singular Number" and then in "Television". She is currently busy with television dramas. Her drama serial "Bijli", where she plays a gangster, will air on Rtv. She is also rapidly recovering from a minor surgery.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON

WAQEEL to perform at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) is organising a Baul music evening by Syed Waqel Ahad at 6:30pm on November 7, at its Gulshan-1 premises.

Singer-composer-lyricist and theatre activist Waqel spent a substantial part of his life with the Bauls living in different parts of the country to pick up the nuances of Baul music.

Waqel's songs mostly deal with nature, human psyche, relationships and social awareness. In his latest album titled "Waqel-er Gaan", he has fused folk, Baul and Western music through the use of traditional and Western musical instruments.

