

WHAT'S ON



9th Annual Theatre Fest
Organiser: Dept of Theatre and Performance Studies, DU
Venue: TSC
Date: Dec 1-12
Time: 6:30pm



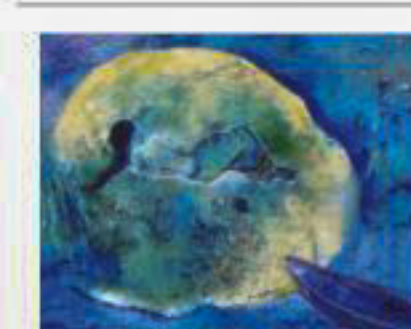
Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
Venue: Café Margo Gallery
H-3/A, Rd-72, Gulshan
Date: Nov 14-Jan 14
Time: 10am-10pm



Dance Drama
Bardi-Bandar Rupkatha
Srishti Cultural Centre
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Dec 5 and 6
Time: 6:30pm



16th Asian Art Biennale
Bangladesh
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 1-31
Time: 11am to 8pm except Fridays (3-8pm)



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Life is New
Artist: Kanak Champa Chakma
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: Nov 5-Dec 6
Time: 12pm-8pm



Painting Exhibition
Title: Moushoms
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: Dec 3-Dec 14
Time: 12pm-8pm



Theatre
Play: Proshom Partho
Theatre: School Prastant
Venue: ICC, Gulshan-1
Date: Dec 6
Time: 6:30pm



Photography Exhibition
A Blend Called Bangladesh
Organiser: Bangladesh Club
Date: Dec 4
Time: 4pm

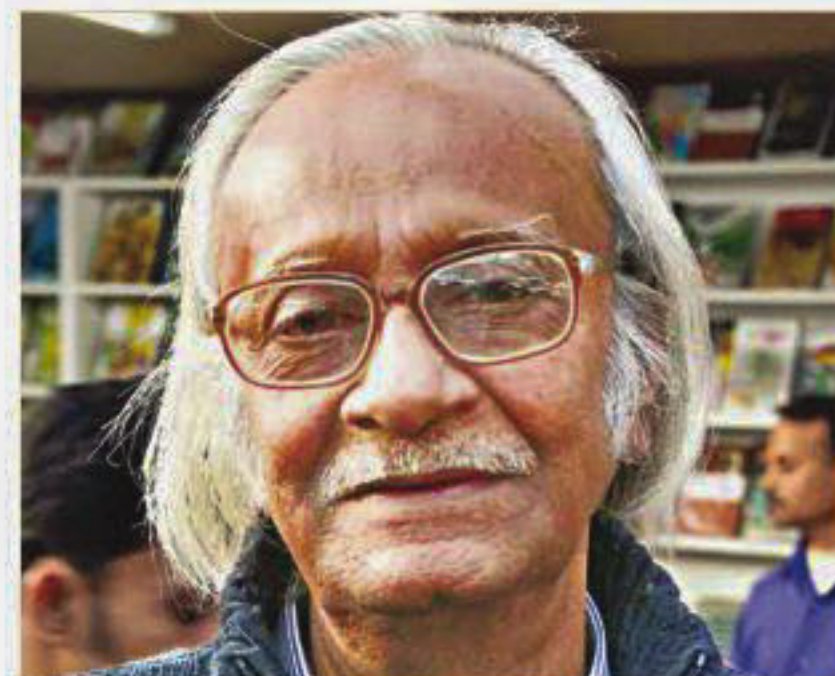


An epitaph for Qayyum Chowdhury

His women, skies, kites, vibrant colours and lines

FAYZA HAQ

In his simple trademark kurta pyjama Qayyum Chowdhury was as imposing as a Roman emperor in a toga and laurels. In the '50s veering away from folk art and moving away from realism, Qayyum entered a phase of semi-abstractism. This gave him subject for work and from it he developed his unique style. He used folk art for stylistic reasons. He borrowed from the lives of the common man. His figures were flat but supple. His bright colours had a mass appeal. He took images in their geometrical shapes and arranged them in a modern way. Qayyum reworked forms in a poetic way. The decorated designs of country boats filled his work. He kept his main object in the centre. He left the space around his subject with minute forms. Thus his central figures stood out because of the play of chiaroscuro. His work was always rhythmic, neat and



clean. In his "Bathing Women" (2002) and "Village Autumn" (2002), oil on canvas, the women in hues of red, blue and beige merge with nature, the rivers, trees and fields.

Even his black and white drawings for magazines, newspapers and books, had and beauty of their own—like the sketches of Pablo Picasso or Rabindranath Tagore. As a

successor of Zainul Abedin and Qamarul Hassan, he roamed freely through the many realms of art. Through his brush and pen he depicted the common man of Bengal—the farmers and fishermen. Visitors at exhibitions could always comprehend what he wished to convey through his art.

"My drawings show the world the way I see it, and manifest the essence of things I have seen. Fluency of draughts men enlivens drawings, and technical perfection can be attained only through copious production," wrote Qayyum.

In the '60s his drawing captured the Bengali people's struggle for survival. He sought to draw near the land and seek its roots. The series of watercolours depict the Language Movement and Liberation War of 1971 eloquently and in different mediums. Behind his work was the driving force of his spirit. He was moved by the helplessness of the victims of the tragedies. He

honoured the victims through his treatment of his work. His "Boat" pen and ink in 2001, "Setting Sun" pen and ink 2001, "Secret Talk" (acrylic), 2004, "Worried" acrylic 2004 depicted his women subjects in green and blue simple lines bringing in the beauty of the minutest leaves and ferns that formed the backdrops of his works.

In his famous drawing of a woman holding a yellow bird, dressed in a simple blue sari, with a brown border and a green blouse, she is seen surrounded by all the wealth of Bangladesh's nature. His faces, rivers and landscapes remain etched in our hearts. The red, swirling sun, bits of leaves, ferns and buds of red flowers; blue fish swimming in the river with blue waves and red seaweed, a rotating beige, red and pale green disc depicting the sun are found in the peaceful and restful picture. A yellow bird in flight and squiggles of blue clumps of trees complete the image.

RAPID FIRE

Wasfia Nazreen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wasfia Nazreen, the daredevil mountaineer and adventurer has taken on a mammoth mission – of hoisting Bangladesh's flag on the highest summits of the seven continents, and is well on track to complete the feat. The National Geographic Magazine's Adventurer of the Year 2014, however, packs her iPod with music whenever she travels, and finds time to watch movies too. She spoke about some of her top favourites in those fronts, in a quick-fire session with The Daily Star.

Favourite musician?

– SD Burman.

Favourite song?

– Sokatore Oi Kadichhe Sokole (Rabindra Sangeet).

Favourite film?

– Godfather, Seven Years in Tibet, anything by Satyajit – particularly Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne.

Favourite Directors?

– Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, George Lucas.

If you could be any character from any film, who would you be?

– Master Yoda (From Star Wars).

Best place in Bangladesh?

– Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Best place in the world that you've been to?

– Antarctica.

The best place in the world that you haven't been to?

– Space.



PHOTO: REDWAN ADD RUFIN



Ityadi to air today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The most popular entertainment show in Bangladesh, "Ityadi", is set to air its latest episode today. Written, presented and directed by Hanif Sanket, "Ityadi" will be telecast on BTV and BTV World after the 8pm news.

The show will continue featuring the historical and archaeological

sites of the country, with the latest episode being shot at Chanderpur's Bodo Station, just beside the confluence of Padma-Meghna-Dakatia. As always it will present a collection of infotainment, along with special reports from around the country.

The episode includes an exclusive interview with Noor Jahan Begum, editor of the newspaper "Begum" and an inspiring report on an

extended family of Mymensingh. Tonight's show will also feature a follow-up report on the achievement of "Ityadi" throughout the year.

The famous "Mama-Bhagne", "Nana-Nati" and other skits will satirise the anomalies of society. Fagun Audio Vision has produced tonight's episode, sponsored by Keya Cosmetics Limited.

Short film extravaganza in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 13th International Short & Independent Film Festival (ISIIF) began in Dhaka on December 4 amid festivity and a pledge to promote independent filmmakers. Bangladesh Short Film Forum has organised the biannual film festival, considered as one of the oldest and most prestigious gatherings of independent film makers in South Asia. BSIFF has been arranging the festival since 1986.

The festival is taking place simultaneously at Bangladesh National Museum, Central Public Library Auditorium and National Music and Dance Center Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith inaugurated the festival as chief guest on Thursday evening. Among others, Nasiruddin Yousuff, chairman of the festival committee; Manzar-e-Hasin Murad, president of



A still from short film "The Horses of Fukushima".

BSIFF, and Tarek Ahmed, director of the festival committee were present at the inauguration ceremony.

ISIIF 2014 is hosting independent filmmakers and film critics from different parts of the world, along with the screening of 200 films –

selected from among 400 films submitted by filmmakers from different countries.

Apart from film screenings, the fest will also award Asian filmmakers and participants through competitions.

Srishti to premiere "Alibaba and the Forty Thieves" today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Srishti Cultural Centre is set to premiere its new dance drama "Badi-Bandar Rupkatha" at 6:30 pm today at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The production, based on the Arabian Nights story "Alibaba and the Forty Thieves", features multi-media inputs including 3D Projection Mapping on stage for the first time in Bangladesh.

The production's dance direction is done by Sukalyan Bhattacharya, while music is by Joy Sarkar. Popular singers Lopamudra Mitra, Nachiketa, Srikanta Acharya, Anwesha, Jayoti, Raghab and Nomomoy lend their voices for the production. Shamim Ara Nipa, Shibli Mohammad, Dolly Iqbal, Sabrina Nisa, and Anisul Islam Hero are in the lead dancers.

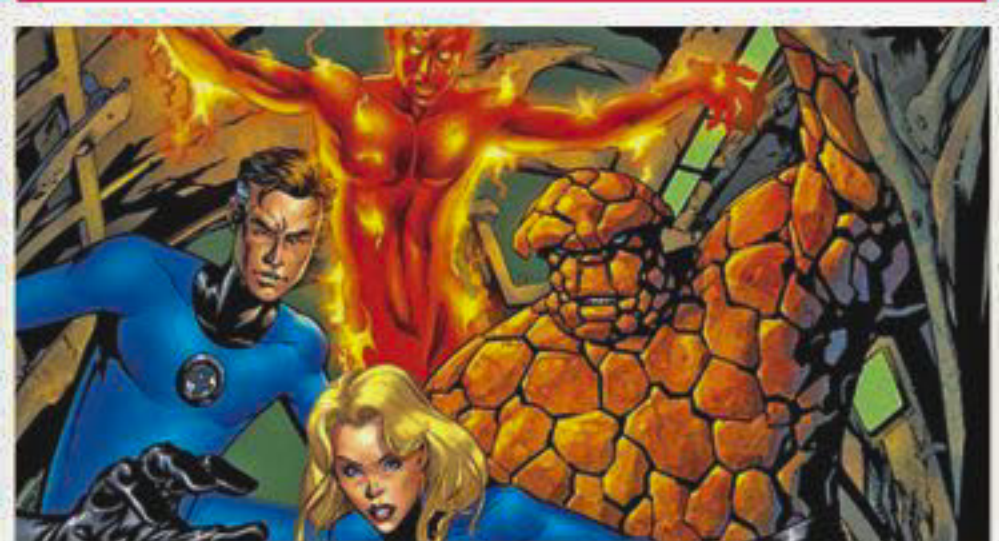
The second staging will take place on December 6 at 6:30 pm at the same venue.

IT'S TRUE!

US singer-songwriter Kelly Clarkson is a big fan of Jane Austen. In 2012, she purchased a turquoise and gold ring that had belonged to the British novelist for £152,450 at auction house Sothebys, against a reserve price of £30,000. Clarkson is a fan of Austen's work and also bought a first edition of Austen's 1816 novel "Persuasion". Clarkson had intended to wear the ring as her engagement ring. Her then-fiancé (now husband) Brandon Blackstock commissioned a replica of the ring for her, which she has been seen wearing on many occasions, most notably during the 2013 Grammy Awards and the Second inauguration of Barack Obama.



NEWS bytes



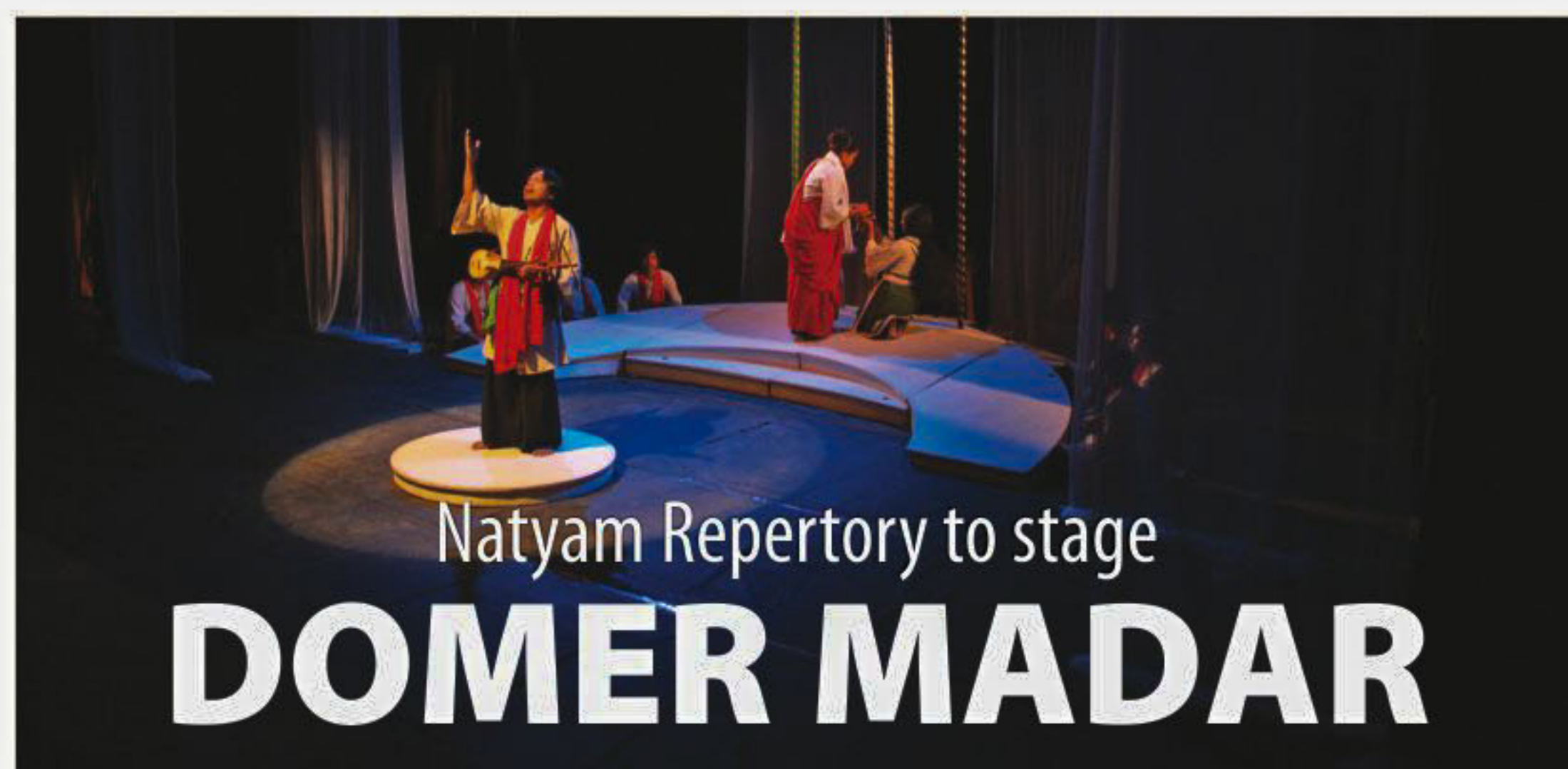
First synopsis arrives for Fantastic Four

The first official synopsis has appeared online for Josh Trank's The Fantastic Four reboot, which gives a brief outline to what to expect from the new film. While Toby Kebbell recently spilled some of the finer details about his character (a reworked version of Doctor Doom, who is now a cyber-terrorist), this official blurb keeps things on the vague side when it comes to the plot.

"The Fantastic Four, a contemporary re-imagining of Marvel's original and longest-running superhero team, centres on four young outsiders who teleport to an alternate and dangerous universe, which alters their physical form in shocking ways."

Directed by Trank and co-starring Michael B. Jordan, Kate Mara, Miles Teller and Jamie Bell, The Fantastic Four will open in the UK on August 6 2015, before opening in the US the following day.

Source: Total Film



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Natyam Repertory will stage their much-acclaimed production "Domar Madar" at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today. The troupe will also honour veteran thespian Mamunur Rashid the same evening for his outstanding contribution to theatre.

"Domar Madar" is based on the age-old folklore of Madar Pirer Akhyar. The story sheds lights on

the misinterpretation of religion for gaining personal and political interests, and depicts how truth surpasses them all to come forth as the supreme. Written by Sadhana Ahmed and directed by Irin Parvin Lopa, the play casts Shishir Rahman, Parveen Akhter, Shubhashish Dutta Tanoy, Fazle Rabbi Sukorno, Jannatul Ferdous and others.

Parimal Mazumdar has done the sound, while light and stage have been designed by Zunayed Yousuf.

Gangnam video 'broke' YouTube view limit



The music video for South Korean singer Psy's "Gangnam Style" exceeded YouTube's view limit, prompting the site to upgrade its counter. YouTube said the video – it's most watched ever – has been viewed more than 2,147,483,647 times.

It has now changed the maximum view limit to 9,223,372,036,854,775,808, or more than nine quintillion. "Gangnam Style" became a worldwide hit when it

was released in 2012, largely due to the surreal video. YouTube's counter previously used a 32-bit integer, which is a unit used to represent data in computer architecture. This means the maximum possible views it could count was 2,147,483,647.

On December 1, it posted a statement saying: "We never thought a video would be watched in numbers greater than a 32-bit integer... but that was before we met Psy."

Google, which owns YouTube, later told website The Verge that engineers "saw this coming a couple months ago and updated our systems to prepare for it."

YouTube now uses a 64-bit integer for its video counter, which means videos have a maximum viewer count of 9.22 quintillion.

Psy has yet to comment although news of YouTube's change was posted on his Facebook and Twitter pages.

The second most-watched video on YouTube – "Baby" by Justin Bieber – lags behind Gangnam Style by more than a billion views.

Source: BBC

TARIN returning to BTV after 10 years

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actress Tarin is returning to BTV's production with single episode TV play "Delicia Hotya". Tarin plays the role of Delicia in the play, directed by Begum Momtaz Hossain and produced by Laila Haq. The play is based on the story of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain.

Tarin will be seen in a BTV-production after a hiatus of 10 years. She was last seen in "Patri Songbad" on BTV 10 years ago. About her comeback, the actress said, "It feels good to be a part of BTV's production after so many years."



TRIBUTE

Frank Zappa: A true trailblazer

FAHMIH FERDOUS

If a life is judged merely on the time-difference between birth and death, then Frank Zappa was just mediocre; he died at the age of 52, on December 4 in 1993 – yesterday marking his 21st death anniversary. But it is the volume of work that makes Frank Zappa a towering figure of modern-era music. Just like one of his countless hits "Shut Up 'n' Play Yer Guitar Some More", Zappa was a man who strived all his life to create music, embarked on a creative journey in his teens that piled on into a massive volume of diverse work – rock, jazz, orchestral and musique concrète, and even filmmaking.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland (USA) in December 1940, Frank Vincent Zappa grew up in an Italian-American household, but his family moved to various places in the country, mainly because of Zappa's ill health; he suffered from various ENT conditions in his childhood.

His first musical instrument of choice was a drum, as he acquired a snare and started learning the basics of orchestral percussion at the age of 12. He eventually took interest in the works of 20th-century avant-garde classical composer Edgar Varèse, to

add to his taste of R&B. As days went by, he developed an interest in the guitar, and soon developed an eclectic, inimitable style.

Trying to make a career in music, he started producing music for local artists, in films and as a nightclub musician. Struggles continued as his eccentric talents – one included playing a bicycle as a musical instrument at a Steve Allen show – revealed themselves. Zappa started working at a studio and began a 12-hour daily routine in overdubbing and audio manipulation – a regime that he took to the grave. However, his Studio Z was stripped off of all recording material as he wrongly fell into a trap set by local police, and was sentenced to six months in prison.

His band "The Mothers of Invention" was formed in the 1965, and the next year came their debut album "Freak Out" – a concoction of R&B, doo-wop and concrète music. The band soon moved to New York, and dished out album after album every year, while also making a name for themselves in live performances. However, "The Mothers" was officially disbanded in 1969 due to record label disputes and such, and Zappa released his first solo material. The band, however, reunited again, while Zappa also continued as

an independent artiste.

His journey continued through countless ups and downs, accidents, business breakups, various musical associations and dissociations, and changes in influence and style. From jazz to orchestral to classical to his use of the Synclavier (a digital synthesiser), he continued to produce new kinds of music, innovating with recording and manipulation techniques. His short endeavours in filmmaking also spoke of his innovation – his debut film "200 Motels" – a film about the life of a rock musician on the road. It was the first feature film to be shot in videotape and transferred to 35mm.

Zappa was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1990 – the disease had been festering for a decade and was inoperable. He spent his last days recording modern orchestral and classical music.

In a career spanning over 30 years, Zappa produced almost all of the 60 albums he released, received critical acclaim from all over the West, and musically inspired and influenced many later-era greats – including rock legends Alice Cooper, Black Sabbath, Steve Vai, Thomas Ulrich and Ensemble Ambrosius in the classical scene, and funk legend George Clinton.

NIPUN'S war film to reach screens around Victory Day

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

National Film Award winner Nipun is now extremely popular among the cine-goers for her acting skills. She also won the hearts of many as a model and that occasional TV play. Her latest movie, based on the Liberation War, is going to be released this month. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the celebrated actress talked about the project and other issues.

Tell us about your upcoming movie.

Nipun: "Ekattorer Maa Jononi" is a story based on the Liberation War. Directed by Shah Alam Kiron, the film was shot at BFD and Narsingdi. I hope it will move the audience.

And what character are you playing in it?

Nipun: The audience will see me playing a double role – one is a 24 year old girl and another an elderly woman – in the project. It was really a very exceptional experience.

How was your overall experience of acting in the film?

Nipun: I gathered valuable experience from working for the project. Frankly, the life of an artiste is filled with different experiences. For example, I had to pass seven to eight hours with liquid food only for portraying the character of a 58-year-old woman. It was really tough. I had to wake up at midnight to wear make-up for the role; it took about eight hours sometimes. It was frustrating when the shooting was cancelled after going through this toiling situation. And the following day, I had to wear the same make-up again.

What else have you been working on?
Nipun: "Sworog Theke Norok" a film on consequences of substance use, directed by Dr. Anup Ratan Chowdhury. About 80 per cent of the shooting is done.

What other works do you have in the pipeline?
Nipun: I've signed Salahuddin Lavlu's "Jonom Jonome" where I will work with Riaz and Shabnur. In the film, I will play the role of second wife, while Shabnur portrays the character of the first wife.

