



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Theatre, TV and film actor Shahiduzzaman Selim is a household name in the country's entertainment industry. He is also a successful TV director. The National Film Award winning actor is now busy shooting several new films and series, besides directing a drama serial. In a recent conversation, Selim offered The Daily Star a glimpse into his hectic life. Excerpts: Tell us about the recent drama

serial that you have directed? Selim: "Ek Jhak Mrito Jonaki" explores the busy lives of materialistic urbanites. Its plot really amazes me. Alongside direction, I've acted in the play. Are you more comfortable with direction or acting? Selim: I thoroughly enjoy acting. On the other hand, direction is quite a challenge, because one is stressed during the project, particularly if one is acting in it as well. Despite all the hurdles, I love direction. I think

directing a production is like a dream coming true. What is acting to you? Selim: To me, it's my prayer, obsession, profession and everything. It is my ultimate salvation. Tell us about your recent works. Selim: I have done a number of movies: "Bapjaner Bioscope", "Poddoapatar Jol" and "U-turn". Shooting for "Poddoapatar Jol" and "U-turn" is over. On the other hand, the shoot for the film "Sultana Bibiana" is underway. Besides, I

signed up another movie "Lal Char", directed by Nader Chowdhury. I am also doing my first film with noted Indian director Goutam Ghose, in the film "Sankhochil". Shooting for the film will begin at different locations next month. I will play the role of a BGBB official in the film. What are the first things an actor should consider before signing for a contract? Selim: A good casting and strong plot should be the priority.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

"Ekjon Mayaboti" on Channel i

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Ekjon Mayaboti" is a popular novel by writer Humayun Ahmed. A drama serial of the same name has recently been adapted from the novel and will go on air soon. Penned by playwright Arun Chowdhury, the play "Ekjon Mayaboti" features Mamunur Rashid, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Mahfuz Ahmed, Anisur Rahman Milon, Rozi Siddique, Sohel Khan and others. The series directed by Mazharul Islam will air on Channel i at 9:35pm every Sunday and Monday. Ahead of its telecast, a press conference was held on the premises of Channel i on Wednesday. Media personality Ramendu Majumder, Hasan Imam, Mamunur Rashid, actress Meher Afroj Shawon and TV director Mazharul Islam, among others, were present.



Shokh completes "Durotto Bojay Rakhun"

A CORRESPONDENT

Anika Kabir Shokh, known best by her last name, has been a popular name on the small screen over the last few years. Be it modeling or acting in TV dramas, she has remained busy, but has still found time to venture into cinema. The glamorous actress recently completed a one-hour TV play called "Durotto Bojay Rakhun", directed by actor-director Milon Bhattacharya. Shokh has been doing a few of these single-episode plays of late, one of the latest is "Breakup". However, she does not shy away from long-term commitments either. Shokh is also doing a TV serial by director Sagar Jahan, named "Moddhobitter Shukh Oshukh".

"I want to run around trees" ... Gauhar Khan



Gauhar Khan is set for not one, but two film releases this year, where she plays the lead — Punjabi film ("Oh Yaara Ainvayi Ainvayi Lut Gaya") and Bollywood movie "Fever". "They will release around the same time, which is in a couple of months and the best part is that my look is diametrically opposite in both," she says. "I was getting a lot of offers from regional cinema. As an actor, I have never restricted myself from doing things other than Bollywood. The fact that I got such a fabulous script where I'm paired opposite Jassi Gill, a superstar in Punjabi cinema, made me take it up," says Gauhar about her Punjabi venture. Her look in "Oh Yaara...", is Indian, very different from what people associate her with. "People have not seen me like this... a girl with her dupatta flying. I should be getting a lot more roles after this. I'm looking forward to that. I want to run around trees!" In "Fever", where she plays the lead opposite Rajeev Khandelwal, she has a European look. "Nobody has seen me like that. Both are performance-oriented roles," she revealed. Gauhar Khan has been in the industry for a while, but has done mostly character roles — including in "Rocket Singh", "Ishaqzaade" and "Game". She was also a major part of reality TV show "Bigg Boss".

Understanding Classical Dance

To enable art lovers to better understand classical dance, Bengal Foundation arranged their regular series of lecture and demonstration programme at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct in The Daily Star centre on March 18. Celebrated dancer-choreographer Sharmila Banerjee with noted Bangladeshi Odissi dancer Benazir Salam presented the fourth programme on the classical dance genre Odissi with live performances by Benazir Salam, Jasim Uddin, Sudeshna Swayamprabha, Nabihah Tahsin Ahona, Afia Ibnat Halim, Tasmia Mashiat Raya, Ira Bala and Marsia Shyama Sarker. Swarup Hossain accompanied the performers on Pakhawaj. The featured performances, including Jaganath Bandana, demonstration of basic elements of Odissi dance, pallavi, abhinaya and moksha, followed the style of Guru Pankajcharan Das and Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra. The presentation also included narrations on the roots, evolution and historical development of Odissi dance along with audio visual presentations.



PHOTO: STAR

Spielberg replaces John Williams for "Bridge of Spies"



Having big time collaborators on board a project are almost always a sure fire way to make sure a filmmaker's cinematic vision makes it to the big screen intact. Just ask Steven Spielberg, who's two biggest collaborators, Tom Hanks and John Williams, were all set to join him on his latest film — the formerly untitled Cold War drama, now entitled "Bridge Of Spies". At least, that's how it was supposed to work out, until personal reasons forced John Williams to bow out of musical component of the October release. Never fear, for as Maestro Williams couldn't come out to play this time around, Academy Award winner Thomas Newman was more than glad to jump in as a substitute. In an official press release from Dreamworks Pictures and Fox 2000, "Bridge Of Spies" was named as the first film since "The Color Purple" not to feature Williams' musical accompaniment. While it is a bummer that the typical Williams/Spielberg partnership was put on an unplanned hiatus for the production of "Bridge Of Spies", it is equally an interesting opportunity to see a

journeyman composer like Thomas Newman taking the reins this time around. After all, he was hand-picked by "Skyfall" director Sam Mendes to fill the franchise shoes that David Arnold had worn since "Tomorrow Never Dies", and that experiment yielded one of the best Bond scores in the series' history. As for Williams, it most certainly won't be a total year off for him and his composer's pen, as he's either already at work or soon to be at work on the music for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens". In fact, the unexpected break from his efforts with Spielberg is probably a good thing as it'll help him avoid a repeat of his busy 2002 schedule. That was the year that not only saw "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack Of The Clones" on his plate, but also had him bringing musical life to "Minority Report", "Catch Me If You Can", and "Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets" in the same year. "Bridge Of Spies" will hit theatres on October 16.