



TV WATCH

SHOMI AND MAHFUZ

Winning team for Shesher Porey

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
Actors Shomi Kaiser and Mahfuz Ahmed have ruled over the TV scene since the '90s. This year for Eid they appear together in a TV play "Shesher Porey". The play is directed by Chayanika Chowdhury and Iffat Arefin Tonni has written the screenplay. The play will air on Gazi TV on the third day of Eid festival with Alpha as producer.
Other cast members to join Shomi and Mahfuz are Azam Khan and Nazira Mou. On

the play Mahfuz Ahmed commented, "Shesher Porey" is not your usual love story. It is about two people from very different spheres who nevertheless forge a connection." Asked about working with Shomi Kaiser the actor added, "We all want our co-stars to be powerful actors, and Shomi Kaiser exceeds this expectation. Working with her is always a joy." Shomi Kaiser also lauded her co-artist's work saying, "I have worked with him since the beginning of our careers, and he has joined me on screen many times over the

years. Once for a TV play we had to spend one month abroad in London. He is not only a talented actor, but he's a wonderful human being." The two actors have maintained a close friendship over the years.
The veteran actors first acted alongside each other in the four-episode TV play "Panthojoner Sokha," directed by Ferdousi Rana. The play was telecast on BTV. Fourteen years ago they also worked together for the first time in a TV play directed by Chayanika Chowdhury, titled "Tomake Chhuye," which was telecast on tv.

Workshop on Lalon held in Mymensingh



Shafi Mondol (c) surrounded by participants at the event. PHOTO: STAR

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
A two-day workshop on Lalon and his spiritual songs held at Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium concluded on Monday.
Jalal Chetana Parishad (JCP), an organisation to promote eminent baul and spiritual artiste and composer of Mymensingh region Jalal Uddin Khan organised the workshop.
Baul Shafi Mondol, the country's most high profile baul and Lalon artiste conducted the workshop for free.
Noted baul artistes of Mymensingh region-

--Sunil Karmaker and Gouranga Adhitya also joined the workshop.
Some 43 young Lalon and folk artistes of Mymensingh region took part in the event.
The resource persons also talked about the life and philosophy of Lalon Saiji and his songs at the workshop.
They also gave lessons on the traditional musical instruments such as dotara, dhol, khul and flute, used in rendering Lalon Geeti.
Marking the inaugural session, a discussion was held.
The speakers were of the view that Mymensingh region has produced many celebrated baul and spiritual artistes includ-

ing Rashid Uddin, Jalal Khan, Umed Ali, Provat, Abed Ali, Sadir Ali, Chand Miah, Idris Ali, Mahtab Uddin Fakir and more.
As the region is enriched with traditional baul, spiritual and folk songs, so the tradition must be contained through the inspiration of the young talents, said the speakers.
Sources said, marking the 31st death anniversary Jalal Khan, JCP will also organise a 10-day workshop from August 1 on the songs of Jalal Khan, said Sarwar Kamal Robin, a member of JCP.
Sunil Karmaker and Maruf Hasan Emon will conduct the workshop as resource persons.

"ArtistSpread" to distribute Bangladeshi artistes worldwide

Sony DADC and Creinse Limited launch service

A CORRESPONDENT
Leading music and home entertainment label Sony DADC and Official Marketing and Distribution Partner of Sony DADC in Bangladesh, Creinse Limited, have launched ArtistSpread, a unique regional and global music distribution platform for Bangladeshi artistes. Under this platform, Bangladeshi musicians and performers will be able to choose among three paid distribution service platforms to distribute their content to India and globally across 200 distribution platforms encompassing online, telecom, streaming, e-commerce and retail distribution.
ArtistSpread is the biggest music distribution platform for Bangladeshi artistes regionally and globally.
ArtistSpread will enable Bangladeshi artistes to penetrate the Indian market through a basket of distribution platforms such as leading Indian online and streaming platforms, Indian Telecom VAS Offerings, leading Indian e-commerce platforms and music retail stores. Physical albums will also be produced from the manufacturing plant of Sony DADC and released under Sony DADC brand for sale

in leading Indian music chain stores and outlets. In addition, ArtistSpread will also create opportunities for music collaboration projects with Indian and global artistes.
Moreover, as value added service for all Bangladesh artistes who subscribe to the ArtistSpread platform, will be a facility to register with the biggest live events company in India. This will give Bangladeshi artistes much needed exposure to the Indian music and event management community to create live events opportunity. Sony DADC will also put efforts to promote Bangladeshi artistes in India through PR and marketing distribution, both in online and offline platforms. Creinse will promote the artistes through social media and other communication platforms.
Under ArtistSpread, Sony DADC and Creinse will choose three brand ambassadors of whom twowill be renowned names from the local music scene and the third will be a fresh talent. The names of the two brand ambassadors will be announced soon and call out for entries for the new talent will be made by Creinse through a contest.



NEWS bytes

"Home" wins at Palm Springs

Daniel Mullyol's "Home", a film from Kosovo about a young family seemingly going on holiday who become caught up in a refugee migration, won the Best of the Festival Award at the 2016 Palm Springs International ShortFest, which concluded Sunday.
Audience awards were voted to the live-action short "The Chop", a comedy about a Jewish butcher, directed by Lewis Rose; the documentary short "Phil's Camino", directed by Annie O'Neil and Jessica Lewis, about a Stage 4 cancer patient; and the animated short "Taking Flight", directed by Brandon Oldenburg.
The festival screened 327 short films, culled from more than 4,100 filmmaker submissions, and more than \$115,000 in prizes was awarded in 21 categories.
"A common thread of immigration and compassion dominates our award-winning films this year — echoing current issues around the world," festival director Helen du Toit said.



Hazarika- Lajmi love story Recreation on celluloid

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
While the relationship between legendary singer-composer Bhupen Hazarika and filmmaker Kalpana Lajmi had been in public domain for long, it is for the first time that a Bollywood director is recreating it on the big screen.
Director Prem Soni, who last helmed actress Preity Zinta's debut film production "Ishkq in Paris", is making the biopic. The yet-to-be-titled film chronicles the love story of Hazarika and his companion of 40 years, Kalpana Lajmi.
"The film is still in scripting stage. It would take time, at least two-three months. It's tough to make a film on a legendary personality like him (Hazarika). It is not easy to create someone's journey on paper," Soni told the media.
Soni is working with Lajmi on the script. "She is helping us a lot with this film. It's her film, her life. She knows the story well," the director said.
"I don't know yet as there is so much to show. It's an emotional film," Soni said, when asked about the aspects of Hazarika's life that he would include in the film.
Who will essay the role of Hazarika? Well, names of actors like Irrfan Khan, Ajay Devgn, Ranveer Singh and Prosenjit Chatterjee are doing the rounds for the lead role. However, none has been finalised as yet.
"It would be an iconic role to play on



Kalpana Lajmi with Bhupen Hazarika.
screen. We will get someone apt for the role. It would be a challenge to find the right actor. We don't know if we will go with an experienced or a young actor to play his character," Soni said.
Lajmi, who directed the film "Rudaali" for which Hazarika composed the music, said, "It's not easy to make a film on a legend like him (Hazarika). The film will mostly happen next year."
Hazarika has donned several hats -- that of a lyricist, musician, singer, poet and filmmaker. He is acknowledged for having introduced the culture and folk music of Assam and north-east India to Hindi cinema.

Beautification with Henna

FAYZA HAQ
What with Eid approaching, people are going helter skelter to touch-up their hair and hands with "mehdi"--both to look their best and keep with an old tradition of Bangladesh.
Along with the ground henna, one puts coffee or tea, and sometimes curd and lime juice to make the henna" paste richer in colour.
The henna has to be carefully applied to the palms and fingers. Some even decorate their arms and back of their hands with henna. The designs are traditionally floral.
There is always a rush at beauty parlours at Eid to get hands and hair coloured with henna.
Among the wealthy Babylonians and Assyrians, henna reigned supreme in the courts. In the subcontinent, it is a part of every celebration, especially during the two Eids, and weddings. The henna paste is made from leaves and water, and perhaps a bit of sugar, to deepen the colour. It is applied with a narrow bit of stick on the finger nails and palms. The floral and geometric designs are in the shapes of circle, lines and dots. Along with music and rich food, it is an integral part of celebrations in our country.
After the leaves are plucked, it is ground. The flower, tendrils and paisley

patterns are then formed on the palm, wrist and hands.
Henna is sold as a paste in cellophane cones in super markets. It is even imported sometimes. Henna is a part of everyday toiletries. Women use it to add lustre to their tresses.
During Eid, even men are not immune to the attractions of henna.



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