



Bhabna set to premiere "Shakuntala"

APORAJITA MUSTAFA

Following the remarkable success of their last dance-drama "Bhanushingher Padabali", Bhabna, one of the leading dance companies of Bangladesh, is set to premiere their upcoming production "Shakuntala" next Friday, September 23 at the National Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The dance-drama is based on a famous play penned by poet Kalidas titled "Abhigyan Shakuntalam" and has been directed by renowned Manipuri dancer, Samina Husain Prema.

During a conversation with The Daily Star, Prema revealed that the entire story is being depicted through a number of Kazi Nazrul Islam's songs, which have been meticulously picked to portray the narrative accurately. The play's choreography is primarily influenced by Manipuri, although it incorporates other Indian classical as well as folk dance forms. Compositions of the Manipuri segments were overseen by Smt. Kalavati Devi, a living legend of Manipuri dance.

Asked about the challenges faced during the preparation of "Shakuntala", Prema said, "The complete process has been quite hectic for us, but the biggest challenge was acquiring funds for the production. This added a considerable amount of pressure to the existing, substantially challenging task of adapting, composing and coordinating Shakuntala."

The script has been crafted by Alomoy Biswas, and brought to life by Jayanto Chattopadhyay, who is the key narrator for the dance-drama. The music is directed and composed by Sumon Sarkar from Kolkata. Celebrated artistes Khairul Anam Shakil and Priyanka Gope sang for the lead roles, while a group of young and talented singers from Bangladesh voiced the chorus segments under the lead duos' guidance. The classical portions were sung by two Indian singers, Sumon Sarkar and Sirsho Roy. Notable artistes Dalia Ahmed, Shimul Mustapha, Tamanna Tithi, Debashish Chakraborty and Jayonta Das have narrated the dialogues for the play. The set and props were designed by Hadi Mirza. Light design was prepared by Reaz Mahmud.

Tickets are available for the show at ticketchai.com at prices ranging from Taka 200-2000.



The artiste speaks at the press conference.

RUNA LAILA TO PERFORM IN LONDON

Celebration of a 50-year career

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking her five-decade career in music, internationally famous Bangladeshi singer Runa Laila will perform at City Pavilion Hall, London on September 24. The organiser, UK Doctor Chef Limited, announced the upcoming event in the presence of Runa Laila on September 16.

The press meet was directed by Dr. Arpita Roy, director of UK Doctor Chef Limited. She informed that the proceeds of the show will go to charity organisations to be channelised towards human welfare projects. Runa Laila was present at the press meet and fielded questions by journalists.

Media partners of the event are ATN Bangla and Channel S. Hafiz Alam Box, CEO of ATN Bangla, and Farhan

Masud Khan of Channel S with senior journalists of Bangla media and other media personnel were present.

The legendary singer started her music career at an early age. She made her debut in playback for the Urdu film "Jugnu" and started playacting for Bangla films in the '60s with legendary singer Mahmud Un Nabi in a duet "Gaan-er Khataye Swaralipi Likhey".

The popular singer is a six-time recipient of the National Film Award. She has also received Shadhinata Padak, Dadasaheb Phalke Award and National Council of Music Award (Gold) and many more. Runa Laila has lent her voices to some 10,000 songs, most notably "Shilpi Ami", "Bondhu Tindin Tor Barit Gelam", "Sadher Lau", "Damadam Mast Kalandar" and "Onek Brishti Jhorey".

"Bablu Bhaiya" on Banglavisión

A CORRESPONDENT

A special break-less TV play titled "Bablu Bhaiya" will go on air at 8pm today on Banglavisión, as part of the channel's Eid entertainment. Written by Kazi Shahidul Islam and directed by Maruf Mithu, it casts Salauddin Lavlu, Orchita Sporshia and Shafiq Khan Dilu, among others.

The story revolves around a middle-aged man who marries a 19-year old girl, and their differences of opinions. When the man is invited to his sister's wedding in a village, the wife objects to wearing a saree to go to the event, as she is used to wearing Western outfits. They have a huge fight, and the man goes on a search for a new wife.



EID TV WATCH "Kushum Kushum Prem" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Eid, ntv will air the sixth episode of Eid special drama serial "Kushum Kushum Prem" at

6:10pm. Written by Palash Mahub, the play is directed by Abu Hayat Mahmud.

In the mini-series, noted actors Mosharraf Karim, Tariq Anam Khan and Sarika will play the lead roles.

"Tumi Na Thakle" on Rtv tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

Eid special TV play "Tumi Na Thakle" will air on Rtv tonight, on the 6th day of Eid, at 10pm. Written and directed by Ashfaque Nipun, the triangular love story revolves around a formidable cast of Iresh Zaker, Mehzabien Chowdhury and Arfan Nisho. Lux has produced the TV drama, for which Elita Karim has sung a song, written by Anik Khan and composed by Shaker Reza.



NEWS bytes

New "Spawn" film is happening

A new "Spawn" film, is in the making, according to character creator Todd McFarlane. Fans of the original 1997 movie have always clamored for its coming. The Image Comics co-founder said, about the upcoming reboot centered on the antihero. He made the announcement in an interview for an episode of AMC's Geeking Out, which ComicBook.com was first to preview.

McFarlane was asked straight up if fans were going to get another movie following the original which starred Michael Jai White, John Leguizamo and Martin Sheen. "The simple answer is yes," McFarlane replied, who has spoken about the possibility over the years. "It's not going to be a continuation. It's not going to be a sequel. Scrub the first movie."

"It's going to be a dark, R-rated, scary, badass sort of script. It's not a nice, polite PG-13," McFarlane insisted. He also said the reboot would utilise more practical effects; the first film was saturated with CGI in almost every frame, which barley held up then. No timetable for the film was given in the preview.



Tom Cruise back for MI6 after production delay

After the critical and commercial success of "Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation", things seemed all set to get underway for a sixth entry in the spy-thriller action series. However, pre-production hit a snag when Tom Cruise got into a pay dispute with Paramount and production was halted. It was unclear how things would proceed from there, but now it seems like any issues have been worked out and production on "Mission: Impossible 6" is back on.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, production for "Mission: Impossible 6" is being re-started. Production was originally planned to begin filming in January 2017, but will now instead begin in Spring 2017. Director Chris McQuarrie was just beginning work on the script while the production team was getting ready to start on the visual designs when production stopped. All in all, proceedings weren't damaged too badly from the behind-the-scenes kerfuffle, and the film's eventual release date was most likely not heavily pushed back.

The pause button was first hit when Paramount (who are co-financing the film with Skydance) entered a monetary dispute with series star Tom Cruise. The film studio allegedly wanted Cruise and some of the movie's producers to "trim their fees."

It's not too surprising that Paramount was able to work things out. Tom Cruise has been the star of the series since 1996, so they couldn't really do it without him. Reaching an agreement - or even caving into his demands - was in their best interest, considering the franchise has been both commercially and critically viable. Not much is known about "Mission: Impossible 6", as production is still in the very early stages. Tom Cruise is returning as



Ethan Hunt, special agent for the Impossible Mission Force who will have to undertake a dangerous mission riddled with action and cool high-tech gadgets. So far, the only other cast member known to be joining him is Rebecca Ferguson as the MI6 agent Ilsa Faust. Ferguson was the breakout star of "Rogue

Nation" with her cool, confident Faust, so it's no surprise that she's back for more missions that are (almost) impossible. It's not known who else will be joining the two, but series regulars like Ving Rhames, Simon Pegg, and Jeremy Renner are all highly plausible options.

"Mission: Impossible 6" is written and will be directed by Chris McQuarrie, who reinvigorated the franchise with "Rogue Nation". The film does not currently have a release date.