



Central cast of the film with the director at the event.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# TAUQUIR DIVES INTO "HALDA"

## Mahurat of upcoming film held

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Riding high on the festival-circuit success of "Oggatonama", Tauquir Ahmed has just announced his new venture. Titled "Halda", the film begins principal photography from the end of this month. The film has been scripted by Azad Bulbul, and will be distributed by Nokkhotro Films.

The film's mahurat ceremony was held on Tuesday at the capital's Dhaka Club. Minister of Information Hasanul Haque Inu attended

the event as chief guest.

The auditorium was abuzz with professionals from the showbiz, aside from the cast and crew of the film. Key guests included film directors Mushfiqur Rahman Gulzar, Morshedul Islam, chairperson of Bangladesh Film Producers Committee Khosru, and eminent director Delwar Jahan Jhantu.

The opening speech was delivered by "Halda" director Tauquir Ahmed, followed by a speech by Minister of Information Hasanul Haque Inu who wished the film its best. Other guests who offered words of appreciation were veteran actor and director Abul Hayat and director Samia Zaman.

Cast members of the film include Zahid Hasan, who stated, "My character, Nader, will

be a challenging one, but I am very excited for it." Mosharrif Karim was all praise for the director, saying, "Tauquir Ahmed always produces works of excellence, and I am honoured to be part of this project."

Tisha, who will also be seen in a central role, commented, "In this film, I play the role of Hasu, a brave woman who overcomes many obstacles. I seek everyone's blessings in my journey towards this venture."

Other cast members include Fazlur Rahman Babu, Runa Khan, and Shahid Ali, all of whom were present at the event.

The event concluded with a musical session where Pintu Ghosh performed. The Chirkutt member is also the music director for the film.

# National Theatre Festival to begin Sept 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With an anti-militancy theme "E Mati Noy Jongibaad-er, E Mati Manobotar", Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) together with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) is organising an 18-day National Theatre Festival 2016 at four venues: National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall of BSA, along with Mahila Samity Mancha in Dhaka.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will inaugurate the festival at National Theatre Hall at 6pm on September 24, where seasoned thespians Ramendu Majumdar and Ataur Rahman will attend as special guests. Secretary General of BGTF, Akhtaruzzaman will deliver welcome address while chairman of BGTF Liaquat Ali Lucky will preside over the inaugural session.

A total of 60 theatre troupes and organisations including 33 from Dhaka Metropolitan

Sampradaye, BSA, Theatre Baily Road, Dhaka Theatre, Loko Natyadal Banani, Onushilon Natyadal (Rajshahi), Nandikar (Chittagong), Bangladesh Theatre, Aranyak Natyadal, Subachan Natya Sangsad, Natyalok (Sirajganj), Bodhon Theatre (Kushtia), Dhaka Padatik, Nagarik Natyangan Ensemble, Loko Natyadal Siddheshwari, Swapnadal, Bunan Theatre, Anirban Theatre (Darshana), Mahakal Natya Sampradaye, Prangone Mor, Padatik Natya Sangsad TSC, Natyamancha (Sylhet), Natyam (Barisal), Biborton (Jessore), Nandimukh (Chittagong), Natyatirtha, Shabdabali Group Theatre (Barisal), Rajshahi Theatre, Panchasiri Group Theatre (Barisal), Sangsaptak Natyadal (Narayanganj), Hothath Natya Sampradaye (Tangail), Padakkhep (Gaibandha), Ekota Natyagoshthi (Kishoreganj), Drishyapat, Natyadhara, Shabdo Natyacharcha Kendra, Susham Natya Sampradaye, Rangpur Natyakendra, Barnochora Natyagoshthi



"Na Manushi Jamin" by Theatre Art Unit is one of the 60 plays to be staged at the festival.

and 27 for eight divisions of Bangladesh will take part in the festival with their popular productions.

The participating troupes at the festival are Jibon Sanket (Habiganj), Nagarik Natyangan Bangladesh, Desh Natak, Prachyanat, Sanglap Group Theatre, Natyakendra, Theatre Art Unit, Cox's Bazar Theatre, Bogra Theatre, Nagarik Natya

(Chandpur), Udichi Theatre Department, Somoy, Kanthashilan, Bidrohi Natyagoshthi (Mymensingh), Naboroopi (Dinajpur) Manipuri Theatre, Bohuroopi Natya Sangstha (Mymensingh), Ankur Natya Academy (Jhainaidah), Padatik Natya Sangsad and Bohubachan.

Staging of each production will start at 7pm at all four venues.



# Jared Leto to play Andy Warhol in biopic

While he may have jumped into the franchise realm with his turn as The Joker in "Suicide Squad", Oscar-winning actor Jared Leto is keeping cozy with character-centric drama projects. Following in the footsteps of Heath Ledger and Jack Nicholson was a mighty big task, but now Leto is setting his sights even higher as he's signed on to play famous pop artist Andy Warhol in a new biopic. According to THR, Leto will star in and produce "Warhol" alongside "The Social Network" and "Captain Philips" producer Michael De Luca, with the duo aiming to craft a prestige mainstream project instead of a small indie biopic.

"Boardwalk Empire" and "Vinyl" creator Terence Winter, who also scripted "The Wolf of Wall Street", is set to pen the screenplay, which will use Victor Bockris' 1989 book "Warhol: The Biography" as a jumping off point.

The Pittsburgh-born artist came from a family of working class emigrants and developed hypochondria at a young age, eventually finding his calling as an artist during his time at the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

Warhol's landmark work took aim directly at commercialism, using well-known imagery to comment on fame and consumerism. His life was one of eccentricity and a fame that transcended the art scene, rubbing elbows with a variety of personalities including US President Jimmy Carter.

Leto, who won an Oscar for his supporting turn in "Dallas Buyers Club", seems like a great choice to bring Warhol to life. Himself an artist and multi-faceted performer (he is the front-man of big-time rock band 30 Seconds to Mars), Leto takes his art very seriously, and one can only imagine the kind of stories that will result from his method acting turn as Warhol.

The project is not yet set up at a studio, but Leto is the cornerstone of this project, which will most likely attract more high-profile talent. It'll be interesting to see how the cast fills out and what points of Warhol's life the film will tackle, although Leto has another memorable Warhol portrayal to overcome in Bill Hader's underrated turn as the artist in "Men in Black 3".

After resurfacing as an actor in "Dallas Buyers Club", Leto has taken a more prolific path to acting as of late. His turn as The Joker in "Suicide Squad" is not his last, as he's signed to a multi-picture contract with Warner Bros. to appear throughout the DC Extended Universe. And he's currently filming a key role in Denis Villeneuve's secretive untitled "Blade Runner" sequel.

Source: Collider

# Theatre fest ends in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A two-day theatre festival concluded at Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium on September 18.

Jagoroni Natya Goshthi and Sangskritik Parishad, a leading cultural group of the town, organised the festival, supported by Aronyak Natya Dal from Dhaka.

Four plays were staged at the festival: - "Allahrakha", based on poet Kazi Nazrul's short story "Jiner Badsha"; "Murkho Loker Murkho Kotha" by Aranyak Natya Dal;

"Lover Boy" by Jagoroni and "Swapnawala" by The Life Theatre in Kolkata, India.

The festival saw a big turnout. A cultural programme and poetry recitation was also held at the festival.

Mannan Hira, president of Bangladesh Pathnatok Parishad; Mymensingh Municipality mayor Ekramul Haque Titu; Bahurupi Natya Sangstha secretary Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu; theatre activist Nusrat Jahan Shimu of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University; Bidrohi Nataya Goshthi secretary Ali Azhar Hablu, and theatre artiste

Shuvendu Ganguly of The Life Theatre addressed the festival, among others.

Supriyo Banik, president of the group was in the chair while its secretary Anisuzzaman Hasan delivered the welcome speech. The speakers said that people not only need nourishment for the body but also for the mind. Culture, especially rooted in our tradition, is essential for mental stimulation and a balanced society, added the speakers.

They also hailed the initiative of the group in holding the festival in Mymensingh.



# TAAPSEE SHINES AS "PINK" DRAWS RAVE REVIEWS

Shoojit Sircar's latest release "Pink", that stars Amitabh Bachchan, Taapsee Pannu and Piyush Mishra in the leads, has taken the nation by storm. The film has not only received exceptional response from the critics but has also stood out with its moving content.

In the film, there is a time where Meenal Arora (played Taapsee Pannu) compels her viewers to shed a tear or two. Amidst high praise for her impeccable role, Taapsee Pannu feels immensely grateful for the opportunity that came her way. "I always knew we have made a good film but this kind of reaction was beyond our expectation. People have taken this movie person-

ally," the 29-year old actress shared. While Amitabh Bachchan stated that "Pink" has become more than just a film, it has become a movement, in his latest interaction, Taapsee said she is overwhelmed with the audience's response. "The love we have got is too much to fathom. Almost too good to believe! Extremely proud to be a part of the film which has shaken up the audience," she quipped.

The film has got rave reviews from all quarters and excellent word of mouth is only going to help its performance at the ticket windows in the days to come.

Source: TOI



# Shahed set for Tollywood debut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular TV actor Shahed Sharif Khan is all set to make his debut in a Tollywood venture. Titled "Senapati", the film will be helmed by Riingo Banerjee.

In the film, the actor will share screen space with popular actors Riya Sen and Parambrata Chatterjee. Filming begins today, for which the actor left Dhaka for Kolkata yesterday.

Talking about the project, Shahed said, "The discussion took place quite a while ago, but I preferred to go for the official announcement before the beginning of the filming."

The shoot of "Senapati" will take place at Kolkata and the actor will be back to the capital after completing the filming.

About eight years ago, Shahed worked in a TV drama series in Kolkata, which was also directed by Riingo Banerjee. In that project, he was cast opposite noted actress Indrani Halder.

