

# Romance and tragedy on stage

## Nrityanchal stages "Mahua" at Ganga-Jamuna Fest

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned dance school Nrityanchal staged their folk dance drama "Mahua" on October 26 at the National Theatre Hall, as part of the ongoing Ganga Jamuna Theatre and Cultural Festival, being held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

"Mahua" is based on a ballad from Mymensingha Geetika, a collection of folk ballads from the region of Mymensingh. Compiled by late Shahidul Islam, the production has been directed by Shamim Ara Nipa.

Though the dance drama meets a tragic end, it delineates an innocent and powerful love story between the protagonists Mahua (enacted by Shamim Ara Nipa) and Noder Chand (donned by Shibli Mohammad). A group of snake-charmers visits Kanchanpur, a peaceful village where Noder Chand, son of a zamindar, falls in love at first sight with the stunningly beautiful Mahua who also reciprocates it.

Mahua's father Homrah, along with the troupe, flees as he comes to know about the love affair. Following much effort and pain, Nader Chand finds his beloved and the duo decides to elope. On their way, the duo is attacked by Mahua's gypsy community. Humra

forces Mahua to stab Noder Chand, but Mahua commits suicide with the knife. Chand also takes his life with the same knife. The audience experience a bit of Shakespearean tragedy that appears at the end of the play "Romeo and Juliet".

The music for the production deserves credit thanks to the beautiful rendition of songs by Kiran Chandra Roy, Sadi Mohammad and a female artiste while the dancers' mesmerising display of folk dance earned many hearts. The grace and enamoured expression of Mahua stood out. To signify every climax of the dance-drama, the light design, artistic direction, rest-less recital of sitar in the music part and the dancers' -- especially Shamim Ara Nipa's -- performance played an immense role to stage the production successfully.

At the end of the dance-drama, all the cast and crew together with coordinator of Nrityanchal Muhammad Jahangir took the stage.

October 26 marked the sixth day of the 10-day festival, organised by Ganga-Jamuna Natyautsab Parishad that is staging a total of 30 plays by 30 troupes from Bangladesh and India, as well as open-air performances by 53 organisations.



The chemistry between Shibli-Nipa (above) and the colourful chorus pieces made "Mahua" an enjoyable production.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

"Only quality work can keep an artiste alive" ...Moushumi Hamid

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Moushumi Hamid is a popular face on the small screen. She has also ventured into modeling and cinema. Several of her plays are now being telecast on different TV channels. Of them, two dramas have already earned her fame. In a recent chat with The Daily Star, the artiste spoke about success of the plays. Excerpts:

"Swarnalata" was a critically acclaimed play; tell us about it.

Moushumi: It is a different plot based on the struggle of some Bihari girls. I played the character of one of the girls in the project, directed by Sumon Anwar. Everyone praised the work. The play is being aired on Banglavision.

What type of work attracts you most?

Moushumi: Any challenging job, especially off-tract work. I always try to avoid same type of work.

What's about the play "Cinemawala"?

Moushumi: I played the role of director's wife who lived in village while her husband stayed in town. She goes through various sorrows and struggles. I'm really enjoying the character.

Have you recently signed any movie?

Moushumi: I have appeared in few movies. I'm still getting offers but all is depending on a quality work which will be appreciated by everyone.

How do you spend your leisure time?

Moushumi: Most of the time I watch TV during my weekends. And if I can manage a long holiday, I leave for a trip out of town. I also listen to music or go through books of my favourite writers.

What's your dream with your career?

Moushumi: I just want to keep doing good work. I believe that only quality work can keep an artiste alive.

# Imposter Facebook accounts fluster BIPASHA HAYAT

A CORRESPONDENT

Bipasha Hayat, the sweetheart of the small screen of the 90s has shifted her focus on screenwriting and painting, and only acts sporadically now. However, the noted actor-artist's huge fandom has been taken advantage of on social media, with at least ten Facebook accounts impersonating to be the celebrity. The actor has stressed that these accounts have nothing to do with her, and yet these accounts are being updated on a daily basis with status updates and pictures. To make matters worse, users operating the imposter accounts are also available on chat. The star explained how the presence of these accounts make her feel harassed as well as abuses her public image. "These fake accounts that pretend to be me make me feel taken advantage of. This is extremely wrong. I

operate just one account where I only add people I know."

State Minister of the Post and Telecommunications Division Tarana Halim, also a former colleague of Bipasha Hayat in the showbiz, said, "It is not a recent matter where fake accounts pretending to be renowned individuals and celebrities are made and operated. Whenever such matters are brought to our attention we take measures along with the Facebook team to block these accounts. Although preventative steps are always being made, such offenses are repeated, and so celebrities can prevent this issue further by having their accounts verified."

Bipasha was last seen on TV this Eid, in Golam Sohrab Dodul's "Dual Play". Before that, she worked in "Rupali Diner Golpo" and "Pakhira Kotha Koy Poroshpor", both written by herself and directed by Arif Khan.



## NEWS bytes

### Sherlock Season 4 drops Jan 1

The official Twitter account for the massively-popular BBC series "Sherlock" revealed that the series will return on January 1, 2017, alongside a teaser image. The first episode of Sherlock's return is called "The Six Thatchers".

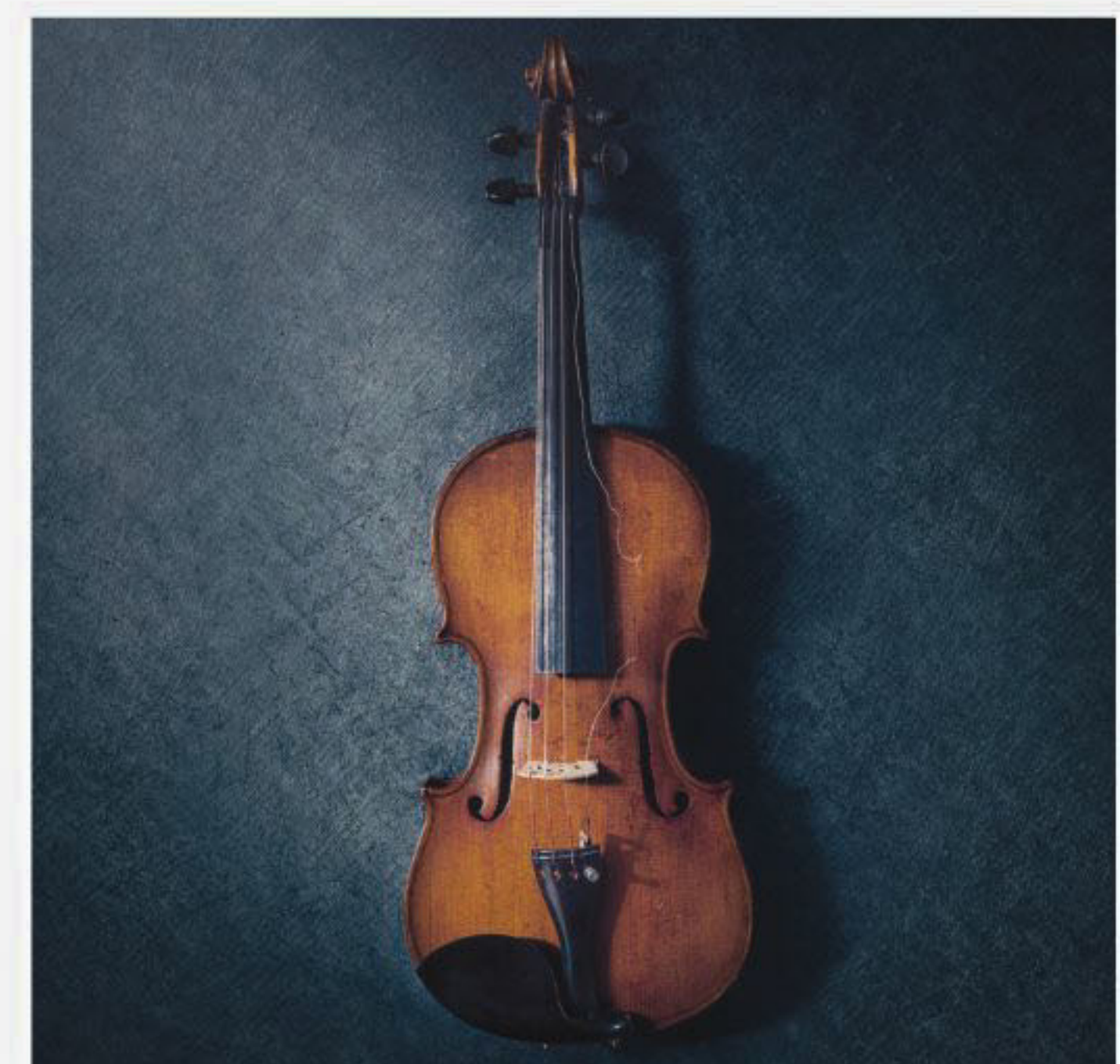
The fourth season will feature three episodes, as previous seasons have. A second episode in the upcoming season is titled "The Lying Detective", while the third episode's name remains a mystery.

Alongside the release date announcement, a new teaser trailer for the upcoming series was also revealed.

Co-creator Steven Moffat previously mentioned that this could be the last season for "Sherlock". And Amanda Abbington, who plays Mary on the show, said at San Diego Comic-Con that this is a really dark season.

The third season of Sherlock ended in 2014. Between seasons, there was a special called "The Abominable Bride" released earlier this year and set in Victorian London.

Source: IGN



## NAZRUL MELA EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

A three day (October 27-29) BRAC Bank Nazrul Mela, organised by Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad, is now on at Bangla Academy Premises. Today's (October 28) performances feature a group dance by Sadia Islam Mou and team set on the song "Chol Chol Chol" at 6pm followed by recitation by Moidul Islam. Performance of solo songs will begin at 6:30pm.

Award recipient Fatema Tuz Zohra will take the stage first followed by a rendition by artistes -- Sumon Chowdhury, Priyanka Gope, Sheikh Jasim, Tanjina Karim Shorolipi, Shahid Kabir Polash, Anindita Chowdhury, Moidul Islam, Rumi Ajnabi, Bipasha Guhathakurta, Jabul Islam Jahir and SonjoyKabiraj. The final attraction of the event is the performance by featured artiste Sujit Mustafa, General Secretary NSSP, will start 8pm.