

THE WEEKENDER



Mad Theatre's "Noddiu Notim" at BSA today
Humayun Ahmed's work adapted for stage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Theatre troupe Mad Theatre is set to stage their first play "Noddiu Notim" at the Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today. This will be the 17th staging of production, and the first in the year for the troupe. The play is an adaptation of wordsmith Humayun Ahmed's novel, "Ke Kotha Koy". Asadul Islam has adapted the script and directed it. Asadul Haq Barun has assisted in direction, with light and set design by Faiz Zahir. The play centres on Motin, who is a poet.

Although often lost in the big world of his imagination, in a parallel persona of an Uzbek poet, Noddiu Notim, he is not estranged from reality, and knows that his loved one, Nishu, is out of his league. He finds a tutoring job at an attractive remuneration, but when he loses the job, his student, a specially-abled child, insists on talking to her, and the play takes a big turn from there. Mad Theatre emerged on the Bangladeshi theatre scene with their debut production "Noddiu Notim" in October 2015, and has held 16 shows of the play – including special shows commemorating Humayun Ahmed's birth anniversary last year.

My fans don't know that I'm a good cook...

Nusraat Faria



ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN
Popular actor Nusraat Faria has already created great waves with her glamorous appearances in film, making her a much sought after personality. Amidst busy shooting schedules for "Dhat Teri Ki", today marks the release of the actor's new film "Premi O Premi". In a conversation with The Daily Star, Faria opens up about her life outside the limelight, and more.
What's your favourite way to spend a weekend?
Nusraat Faria: Honestly, I don't really have proper weekends, but if I do have time off I'd like to spend an extra hour at the gym.

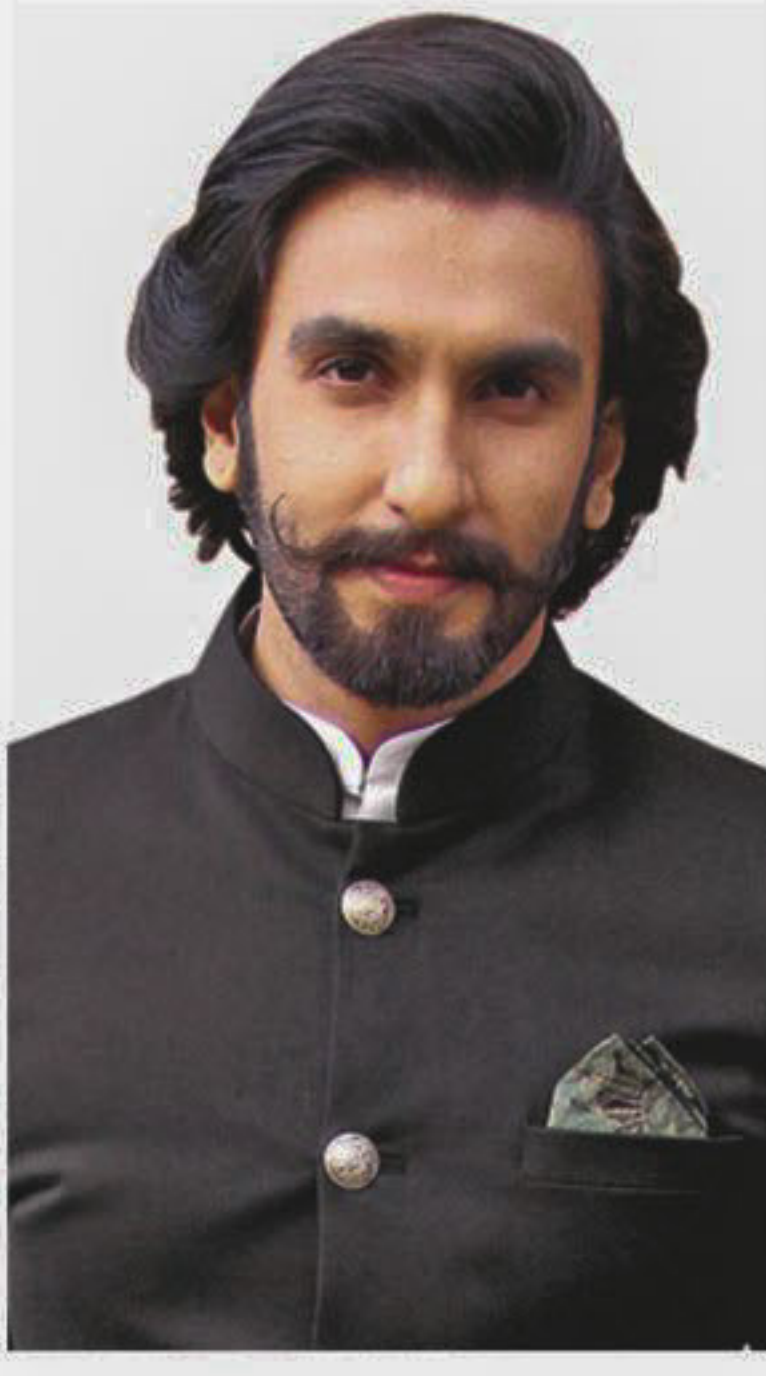
Do you have a hidden talent your fans don't know about?
Nusraat Faria: My fans don't know that I'm a good cook. I can cook pretty much every dish in the Bengali cuisine. My family members are big foodies, and that is how my interest in cooking began. Most people see me and they don't take me for a girl who enjoys such a thing!
What is the best way to cope with stress?
Nusraat Faria: I'm a caffeine freak, so when I'm stressed out I drink a lot of coffee. Exercise and a lot of meditation also helps in getting rid of stress. If I have the time, I turn to dancing.
Apart from acting, is there something you enjoy that you would like to do seriously?
Nusraat Faria: Yes, there are a lot of

things. People don't know that I used to be a classical dancer, and I always had a dream of opening my own dance school someday. I am also a law student, and perhaps in the near future I might turn working in a law firm.
What is your favourite holiday destination?
Nusraat Faria: London. I don't know why, but I find the place very soothing, and I love London summers. And since I love the boutique culture, it's my favourite destination to shop.
Is there an actor or actress you admire?
Nusraat Faria: Priyanka Chopra. I follow her closely, not just on the screen, but also her social media to see what she is up to.



Ranveer, Alia pair up for Zoya Akhtar's "Gully Boy"

Zoya Akhtar has finalised the cast of her next directorial venture, "Gully Boy". She plans to bring together Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt to play the lead roles in the film, co-produced by Zoya's recently-launched banner Tiger Baby and Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar's Excel Entertainment. While Ranveer and Alia have not starred in a film together, they have done several advertisements for the travel website Make My Trip. The hit producer duo Farhan-Ritesh, who last worked together for Shah Rukh Khan's "Raees", are also back with Gully Boy. The film is about the lives of street rappers from Mumbai's ghettos. Zoya and Ranveer attended a few sessions of two street rappers, Naezy and Divine, who were the subjects of a documentary "Bombay 70", while researching for the film. "Gully Boy" is reportedly inspired by the characters of Naezy and Divine, and there have been reports that Ranveer's character will be based on Naezy's life. The shoot of the movie is likely to begin in November 2017. While Ranveer is currently working on Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Padmavati" that also stars Deepika Padukone and Shahid Kapoor, Alia will soon be seen in "Badrinath Ki Dulhaniya" opposite Varun Dhawan.
Source: **Hindustan Times**



Cosmos Foundation donates printmaking machine to CU

Cosmos Foundation, a charitable organisation under Cosmos Group, donated a printmaking machine to the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Chittagong (CU) on January 25 at the institute premises. Cosmos Atelier'71 designed and made the machine, says a press release. CU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury as chief guest, Associate Professor Shaela Sharmin, Director of the Institute and the internationally famed artist Kalidas Karmakar as special guests were present among others at the event. Amanullah Khan, Chairman, UNB and Cosmos Group, presided over the function. Associate Professor Md Jasimuddin Head of the Department of Printmaking delivered the welcome address. Cosmos Foundation also gave two copies of a book titled "Art Against Terrorism", published by Gallery Cosmos, to the Vice Chancellor and the Director of the institute. The programme concluded with a printmaking workshop, conducted by Kalidas Karmakar.

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