



The director, flanked by the lead cast of his film.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Green University organises Shakespeare Festival

A two-day Shakespeare Fest 2018 was organised by the English Club under the department of English of Green University of Bangladesh (GUB) recently.

The festival, held at the IQAC auditorium, featured staging of two plays by William Shakespeare, "Othello" and "Romeo and Juliet", directed by Ashik Istiak along with scholarly discussions and commentaries, according to a press release.

Distinguished guests Professor Dr. Khalequzzaman Elias (Professor, Dept. of English, North South University) and Mashrur Shahid Hossain (Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Jahangirnagar University) were received by GUB Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir.

The staging of the classic "Othello" was held on the day, performed by the amateur actors from the Dept. of English, GUB. A capacity audience enjoyed the two-hour play, as the performances earned numerous rounds of applause.

Then guests later engaged in a scholarly discussion on the play.

Guests of the second day's programme were Professor Dr. Abu Jafar (Chairperson, Dept. of English, Jagannath University) and renowned filmmaker Zakir Hossain Raju. The staging of "Romeo and Juliet" thoroughly entertained the students.

After the performance, the distinguished guests were invited to illuminate the audience and the performers by giving their scholarly commentaries on the play.



The students of the university acted in the plays.

It's time to weave "Swapnajaal"

Giasuddin Selim's comeback film releases today

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Films that appeal to critics and the general audience alike are rare to come by, and that is true everywhere in the world. Nine years ago, "Monpura" broke that ground, appealing to film lovers across Bangladesh with runs as long as nine-months in theatres, as well as sweeping five National Awards.

That's a tough act to follow, but Giasuddin Selim, who wrote and directed that classic, finally has his follow-up ready for the audience and critic's judgment. "Swapnajaal", starring the unlikely pair of commercial film star Pori Moni and the virtually unknown Yash Rohan in the central roles, opens in theatres across the country today.

The film, a Bangladesh-India joint venture, has created a considerable buzz among cinephiles of the country, both because of Selim's repute and whatever glance that the promotional materials have given. Pori Moni, the quintessential Dhallywood heroine has turned heads with her de-glam look and emotional dialogues in the trailer, while a powerhouse support cast featuring Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shahidul Alam Sachchu, Misha Sawdagar and Iresh Zaker have also impressed and intrigued in it. The story, billed as "a love story between two young souls", promises to tackle complex issues like communal conflicts around a story of love and separation.

While the success of "Monpura" largely owed to its music, "Swapnajaal" seems to be looking to avoid that route. Only one song (of

the four in the film) has been released, that too only last Tuesday. "Emon Kore Bolchhi", sung by Rasheed Sharif Shoaib and Armeen Musa, follows Selim's penchant for using unique, unconventional voices in his songs. Shoaib has reportedly composed the other songs of the film as well.

"Swapnajaal", presented by confectionary brand All Time, is a joint production between Bengal Creations (Bangladesh) and Bengal Sambhar (India). Aung Rakhine serves as executive producer on the film, which also casts Farhana Mithu, Rajat Ganguly, Reshmi Sen and Ashish Chakrabarty in other major roles. The film went in pre-production in November 2015, and shot mostly in Chandpur, with some parts filmed in India's Kolkata and Agartala.



Zahid Hasan (C) directs the play and acts in the central role.

"Infinity War" character posters released

The Marvel Cinematic Universe has seen heroes come together before, but not nearly on the same scale as it will in the upcoming "Avengers: Infinity War". The Avengers, the Guardians of the Galaxy and other select protagonists will join forces to stop Thanos from acquiring all six Infinity Stones in the Russo brothers-directed film that lands in theatres April 27, and with only a few more weeks to go until the release, Marvel dropped 22 new posters for the blockbuster event, each highlighting one of the characters who will be taking part in the tentpole. Cinemablend did a breakdown of the posters, excerpts from which are given below:

The first set has Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) who is no longer going by Captain America, Nebula (Karen Gillan), Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan) who is now going by White Wolf and Shuri (Letitia Wright). Bucky's new metal arm looks especially cool on his poster, which presumably Shuri has redesigned, as she's been 'fixing' him following the events of "Civil War".

The next set has Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), Spider-Man (Tom Holland) and Wong (Benedict Wong). While the inclusion of Wong hints at his involvement in the saga, Peter Parker's Iron Spider armor also looks fairly detailed in his poster.

The third group consists of Gamora (Zoe Saldana), Thor (Chris Hemsworth) and Star-Lord (Chris



Pratt), as well as Groot (voiced by Vin Diesel) and Rocket Raccoon (Bradley Cooper) sharing a poster. It's Thor who stands out from this bunch, since he's not a Guardian of the Galaxy, but he'll meet the team relatively early into "Avengers: Infinity War" as teased in the trailer.

In the next tweet are Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman), Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Drax the Destroyer (Dave Bautista). T'Challa has been enjoying great success on the big screen since "Black Panther" debuted in

February, and fans are excited to see him fight alongside the other MCU heroes in Wakanda against Thanos' minions.

The next batch of posters show off Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen), Vision (Paul Bettany), Okoye (Danai Gurira) and Falcon (Anthony Mackie). Like Wong, Okoye getting a place in the MCU hero lineup is promising, given her strong presence in "Black Panther". Vision is also likely to be one of the most important players in the film, since he is powered by the Mind Stone, thus making of Thanos' primary targets.

The final set gives a closer look at War Machine (Don Cheadle) and Mantis (Pom Klementieff). War Machine, despite being paralyzed in "Civil War", thanks to cutting edge Stark tech (and perhaps some Wakandan tech), he'll be able to don his armor again and participate in the action. Mantis was introduced in "Guardians Vol. 2", and it will be interesting to see if her ability to sense and manipulate emotions will come into play during this film.

The two glaring absentees in this illustrious series of posters are Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) and Ant-Man (Paul Rudd), keeping with the promotional material by Marvel so far. According to the directors, Hawkeye will be on his 'own journey' during the movie, but there has been no news of Ant-Man.

Source: Cinemablend

TV WATCH

"Sentimental Selim" on Rtv

A CORRESPONDENT

TV series "Sentimental Selim" goes on air tonight at 9:20pm on Rtv. Written by Hamid Hasan Noman and directed by Zahid Hasan, the series stars Hasan himself, Tanzika, Sazu Khadem, Arfan, Mansur Ali,

Tasnova Elvin and others.

The play revolves around siblings Selim and Tithi, who share a close relationship. Selim is a well-natured guy but is emotionally quite sensitive.

"Sentimental Selim" airs Fridays through Sundays at the same time on the channel.



Paying their deep homage to eminent cultural personality, artiste, writer and president of Chhayanaut Dr. Sanjida Khatun on her 85th birth anniversary on April 4, artistes of Chhayanaut celebrate the birthday in a befitting manner at the main auditorium of the cultural organisation. The artistes rendered songs, recited poems and performed dances to rejoice the occasion. Several renowned singers like Mita Huq, Khairul Anam Shakil, Laisa Ahmed Lisa and others present solo songs at the event.

