

# Eid Bonanza under way!



**Zahid Hasan**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Even though Eid is still more than a month away, television directors have been scrambling to

get Eid ventures under wraps. Many have gotten all their work done and dusted, and ready for airing after Ramadan.

Popular director Sagor Jahan has been quite busy, having just filmed a six episode play titled *Dhulo Baburchi*. The venture is slated to star television heavy-weight Zahid Hasan and popular actress Bhabna. Bhabna is also teaming up with Shajal in Animesh Aich's single episode play, "Gift".

Another busy director is Shihab Shaheen, whose Eid plays and telefilms have been consistently well received. This Eid he is delivering a telefilm titled *Bondhon*, starting Momo and Apurba.

Prolific director Chayanika Chowdhury has completed filming

**Bhabna**

two single episode plays, and is scheduled to shoot more next week. It has been revealed her plays will include veteran actors Mahfouz Ahmed and Suborna Mustafa.

Renowned actor Salahuddin Lavlu is investing all his time and focus into directing, and has recently returned from Kushtia after having completed filming for a single episode play starring Niloy Alamgir.

There are quite a few other actors who have made their forays into directing, including Zahid Hasan, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Tauquir Ahmed and Mir Sabbir, to name a few. These celebrated artistes find themselves busy in front of the camera as well as behind the scenes each year during

**Apurba**

Eid. "I am still planning things out," stated Zahid Hasan, "after getting everything organised I plan to start filming the following week."

Shahiduzzaman Selim added, "Every year I direct a few plays for Eid. This year I have plans to film two single episode plays, for which shooting will commence during Ramadan."

Mir Sabbir plans to get quite busy this year. He informed The Daily Star that like every year, he has plans to helm three or four ventures this Eid.

No Eid would be complete without the appearance of popular actors such as Tisha, Shajal, Mehazabien, Chanchal Chowdhury, Mosharraf Karim, Apurba, and many more.

## IMPHAL TALKIES

A Native Tongue called Peace



SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Akhu Chingambam is a man who does not want to identify as a musician, even though his band and alternate persona, Imphal Talkies, has two internationally acclaimed albums released. He is rather a poet who talks about the life in Manipur, and the lifestyle that its people live with through his charming melodies. He recently performed at Jatra Biroti in Dhaka. Imphal Talkies was born when Akhu was pursuing his PHD in Astrophysics in New Delhi, where he recorded eight songs with his friend.

Having been a part of various protests in Imphal mainly protesting the AFSPA, the Armed Forces Act in India, which allows army personnel to kill anyone on mere suspicion, Akhu grew up contemplating the difficulties and prejudice that they had to face in their hometown. He had great stories to tell through his songs. The song *Maria* is about an orphaned girl on the streets who had to resort to prostitution, while *Mr. President is Coming* is about the time when Pranab Mukherjee was about to visit Manipur and no one was allowed to get out of their homes due to strict protocols. Needless to say, the people at the venue were awed by the sheer tenacity of the music and its lyrics. "I had actually come to Bangladesh to research on my new album within the remote Manipuri communities here," explains Akhu. The artist was then contacted by Rushnaf Wadud, a close friend since their time together studying in India, and was convinced to tour around four cities in Bangladesh. When asked if he has any messages for the Bangladeshi audience, Akhu says, "I don't believe in messages. I believe in action and what we can do in order to bring peace to the society. But yes, I love Bangladesh and the hospitality of the lovely people!"

## Art, not bound by Rules

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Hamiduzzaman Khan boasts an almost magical touch, of turning the ordinary into the extraordinary, with his exuberant art. With his vast experience and insightful thoughts on life, nature and the country's opulent cultural heritage, the artist shuns the thought of confining himself to a single medium, always experimenting with diverse styles.

Solitude and serenity -- vital aspects of his works -- also reflect inner feelings, real life experiences and nostalgic memories. In a recent conversation, the artist asserted his opinions on whether academic pursuit is necessary or not for an artist.

"An academic learning, is simply a structure upon which individuals act, which is no different for artists pursuing academics," says Hamiduzzaman. "A formal learning is not inevitably essential for creating arts or being an artist."

According to him, being an artist requires ceaseless practice. Artists are born but not manufactured or created. He mentions the ancient civilisations, where people would create cave paintings, not only to express themselves but also to communicate. If an individual is bent on following the rules, he or she is unlikely to ever become a true artist.

"The world welcomes new styles



and techniques," expresses Hamiduzzaman. "The world is forever evolving. An artist, too, should change with time and embrace new patterns of thought"

One thinks of the frontrunners, who came up with timeless creations, despite having no formal academic background, namely, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Pablo Picasso, Vincent van Gogh, Abanindranath Tagore, Rabindranath Tagore, Maqbool Fida Husain, S.M. Sultan and many more.

Hamiduzzaman mentions one of the pioneers of art in Bangladesh – Zainul Abedin. "He had not even passed his matriculation examinations!" says Hamiduzzaman animatedly. "Abedin's works are testament to the fact that, one does not always require to be academically qualified to become an artist."

It needs to be remembered that even though academic qualifications are in no way undermined, it is not the 'be all and end all' of art.

## Digital Cartoon Exhibition at Drik Gallery

Bancaras-Wacom Cartoon Exhibition began yesterday at Dhaka's Drik Gallery. The exhibit is featuring 80 cartoons of 36 artists, professional and amateurs. Only digitally drawn cartoons were accepted in the competition. There were live caricature sessions and digital art demonstrations at the event, and the winners were awarded with Wacom tablets yesterday. Don't miss out on this unique exhibit; it ends on May 5!

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



### WHAT'S ON

**Contemporary Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Silent Revelation  
 Artist: Mohammad Iqbal  
 Venue: Edge Galleries (Dhanmondi & Gulshan)  
 Date: April 22-May 5  
 Time: 10am-8pm

**Film Screening & Discussion**  
 Marking 97th Birthday of Satyajit Ray  
 Films: *Charulata* & *Kanchenjunga*  
 Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precincts, The Daily Star Centre  
 Date: May 5; Time: 4pm onwards

**Concert**  
 No Surprises: A Radiohead Tribute  
 Band: Indalo  
 Venue: Russian Cultural Centre  
 Date: May 4; Time: 3:30pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Displaced in Dhaka  
 Artist: Kuntal Baral  
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD  
 Date: May 4-19  
 Time: 3pm-9pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Poem of Varendra-2  
 Artist: Suman Kumar Sarkar  
 Venue: Bishwo Shahitto Kendro Gallery  
 Date: May 4-10  
 Time: 2pm-9pm