



"Dance is my first love"

— Sadia Islam Mou

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Sadia Islam Mou is not only one of Bangladesh's most sought-after models, but a renowned dancer as well. Even though she is arguably better known for her endeavours on television, she keeps up her practice in dance. The multitalented artiste shares her recent achievements, projects and plans with *The Daily Star*.

You were in London to receive an award for International Dance Day, can you tell us more about it?

I was in London on an invite from dancer Sohail Ahmed and Radharaman Dance Society. I am grateful to them, as my dance guru, Rahija Khanam Jhunu was given an award. On behalf of her, we, her students, received the award. We used to call her 'amma'.

You were honoured as well while you were there.

A reception was given to me at Leads City Council on April 30, and on May 1,

I was given a civic reception at Barking and Dagenham Council. This is a huge honour for me, as the Mayor of London was present there, as well as councillor Foyzur Rahman. The last person to get this award was the legendary Runa Laila.

You love dance a lot. What is the reason behind this?

Even though everyone knows me as a model or actor, I have been dancing from the age of 3. Dance is my first love, and first loves cannot be forgotten easily. When I won't be able to dance on stage anymore, I plan to work on dance productions from behind the curtains.

What are your projects for Eid this year?

I have participated in a dance programme for Eid this year, that too after a long time. It was under the direction of Kabirul Islam, and will air on RTV this Eid. Besides this, I am working on my own production on BTV, for which we have started shooting. I have another project under director Arif Khan.

Chhayanaut holds Nazrul birth anniversary programme

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To Mark the 120th birth anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Chhayanaut, one of the leading cultural organisations in the country, organised a celebration programme titled, *Nazrul Jayanti 1426* at its Ramesh Chandra Datta Smriti Milankendra in Dhamondi of the capital yesterday morning.

The event began with a choral rendition of the song *Jago Amrito Piashi Chito*. At the event, vice president of Chhayanaut, Khairul Anam Shakil delivered the welcome address. Rendition and recitation of solo songs and poems followed later.

Suptika Mondal performed the song *Akashey Bhorer Tara* while Manish Sarkar rendered a devotional number *Ogo Ontorjami, Bhokter Tobi Shono*. Mohith Khan beautifully presented the song *Tumi Jotoi Dohona Dukher Onole*. Tanvir Ahmed offered an Islamic song *Kalma Shahadat Ache Khodar Jyoti* at the event.

Layeka Basir sang *Antore Tumi Achhe Chirodin* while Bitu Kumar Shil rendered a sonorous



song *Swadesh Amar*. Aishwarya Samadder's *Khele Nander Anginaye* was melodic. Shrabanti Dhar too nicely performed the song *Bhaier Dore Bhai Kende Jaye*.

Jayanta Roy and Sumona Biswas recited Nazrul poems on the occasion. The programme concluded with a performance of the National Anthem.



Fuad's 'Cholo Bangladesh' for the ICC World Cup 2019

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Grameenphone has come up with a fan song titled *Cholo Bangladesh*, composed by popular musician Fuad Almuqtadir to celebrate the ICC World Cup 2019 as well as to inspire the supporters of Bangladesh National Cricket Team.

The song is written by Mehedi Ansari. The vocalists include Fuad Almuqtadir, Johan Alamgir and Shuvo. The video direction is done by Samiur Rahman from Runout Films LTD. "The song will inspire every Bangladeshi in every nook and cranny of the world," says Fuad Almuqtadir. "The song depicts the hopes and dreams of the Bangladesh team and 16 crore Bangladeshi. I hope, everyone will love the song and it will be a part of our glorious journey of cricket."

The song is available on the GP music platform of Grameenphone. Apart from TV, the music video of the song will also be available on Bioscope, Grameenphone's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

'Shikhondi Kotha' staged at BSA

MINAM HAQ

Renowned theatre troupe Mahakal Natya Sampraday will turn 36 on July 14. To mark the occasion, the group recently staged their renowned play *Shikhondi Kotha* for the 175th time, at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

President of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSI), Golam Kuddus was scheduled to attend as the chief guest, while presidium member of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Lucky Enam was the

special guest at the event.

Written by Anan Zaman and directed by Rashid Harun, *Shikhondi Kotha* unfolds as a distinctive and powerful play, based on the trials and tribulations faced by the members of the transgender (*hijra*) community.

It narrates the story of a boy named Ratan. At one point in life, he realises that he is different from the other boys in terms of posture and feelings. He later identifies as a transgender and leaves his home to settle with a transgender community. With time, the plot reveals how



society looks down on transgender people and refuses to address them as equals in society. Each member in Ratna's (Ratan's new name) community have their own grievous history and by sharing it with each other, they seem to find consolation.

Apart from the many heart-wrenching moments, the playwright managed to benevolently include comedic bits, maintaining a balance between humour and melancholy. The cast of Mahakal Natya Sampraday executed *Shikhondi Kotha* with sheer brilliance. It helped the audience to step in the shoes of the oppressed and get an overall idea about the hardships and inequality faced by the transgender people in our communities.

The members of the troupe comprised of Zahid Hasan, Poly Biswas, Ripon Farazi, Surela Nazom, Samiul Joibon, Sathi amongst others. Tanvir Hasan and Shafiqul Islam were behind the design of the set, while Rafiqul Haque Himmel designed the stage lights. The costume and makeup were done by Wahida Mollick and Shubhashish Dutta Tonmoy, respectively.



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