

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
Title: A New Testament of Romeo & Juliet
Troupe: Empty Space
Venue: National Theatre, BSA
Date: September 29
Time: 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Concert
Title: Arnob Live 2019
Venue: Jamuna Future Park
Date: September 20
Time: 5 pm

Exhibition
Title: Jamdani Festival 2019
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi
Date: September 6 - October 12
(closed on Sundays)
Time: 12 noon - 8 pm

Theatre Festival
Title: Syed Mahidul Islam Smaron Utshab 2019
Organiser: Byatikram Natya Gosthi
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Sep 14-18
Time: 6 pm - 9 pm

Live Performance
Title: An English Summer
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
Date: September 26
Time: 6 pm onwards
Tickets: BDT 300

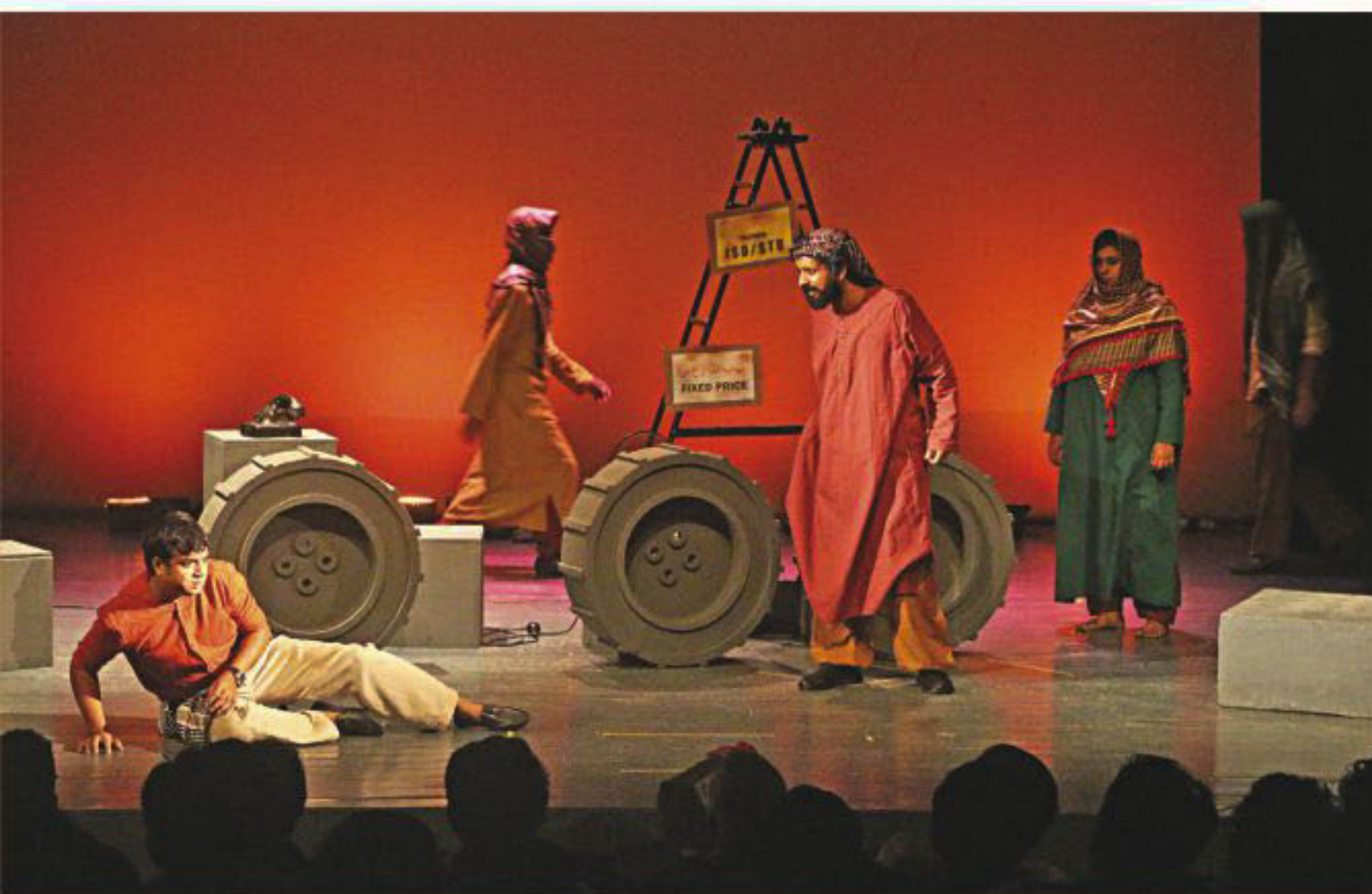


PHOTO: STAR

Prachyanat's 'Pulsiraat' stuns the audience

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY
Popular theater group Prachyanat recently presented their 35th production, *Pulsiraat*, at the Nilima Ibrahim Auditorium, Mohila Shomiti. Originally written by Palestinian writer and political activist Ghassan Kanafani, it was published in 1962 as *Men in the Sun*. The story has been adapted by Monirul Islam Rubel, and directed by Kazi Toufikul Islam Emon.

A recent study by the Global Economic Forum reveals that around 15% of the global population would

migrate, if given the opportunity. There are people who are forced to migrate due to the unfavorable conditions of their own land. *Pulsiraat*, a bridge which leads to heaven if successfully crossed, can be said to be a manifestation of the dreams of a better future.

Pulsiraat is an allegorical journey of refugees attempting to escape, represented by three men from three different generations -- the elderly Abu Kayes, the middle aged Assad and teenager Marwan. All three set themselves on an illegal voyage to a different country, in search of a better

life. Throughout the story, the characters reveal the events that pushed them forward to risk everything that they hold dear. Their charioteer, Abul Khajjuran, promises to give them a safe ride to Kuwait, in exchange of 10 Dinar each. Hiding in water tanks on the chariot, under the scorching August sun, the lives of the men meet a tragic end as they reach the land of their dreams. The driver, when he discovers the still bodies in the tanks wonders why they did not knock the walls of the tank before dying. The production ends with a brilliant twist in conceptualising the query. Like

always, the play has excelled in sound and music. Since it was the first show of the new production, the performance can only improve from here. The houseful auditorium for the back-to-back shows indicates the formidability of *Pulsiraat*.

Noted theater personnel, Mamunur Rashid, Ramendu Majumdar, Tariq Anam Khan, among other noted personalities were present during the first show of *Pulsiraat*. Congratulating the team, Mamunur Rashid said, "This is the first time, a Palestinian story has been staged. It is very important that we stage relevant stories from all over the world."

SAMARESH MAJUMDER unveils his new book in Dhaka

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
Celebrated novelist of both Bengals, Samares Majumder, unveiled his new novel *Oporichito Jibonjapon* yesterday at the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro. The book is jointly published by Batighar. In the programme titled *Boi Prokasher Golpo*, he interacted with the readers, shared his experiences, and talked about his career after the unveiling of the book. Bangladeshi writer Badal Syed talked about his book, *Jonmo Joy*, which was re-introduced by Samares Majumder at the event.

The writer arrived in Dhaka on September 10, and went to Sylhet to visited Batighar, Sylhet.

Dipankar Das, the founder of Batighar, confirms that the writer will return to Kolkata on September 17.



(From left) Badal Syed, Samares Majumder and Anisul Islam Bhuiyan. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: COURTESY

Shilpi and her dance troupe Nritya Niketan gains UNESCO recognition

Morsheda Begum Shilpi and her Naogaon-based dance troupe, Nritya Niketan, have reached a milestone through becoming members of International Dance Council (CID), UNESCO.

ZAHANGIR ALOM
"The authority of CID first contacted our Facebook page. Then Alkis Raftis, President of CID, contacted us directly on August 7," said Morsheda Begum Shilpi. "We got the opportunity to perform abroad. When we agreed, he subsequently told us to send our details. Later, they formally informed us of our CID membership on August 30."

"Nritya Niketan not only expresses the beauty of dance on stage, but also makes people aware of different social issues, including conserving nature and the environment," said Rafiquddoula Rabbi, General Secretary of Abritti Parishad, Naogaon. "The themes of Shilpi's dance choreography aimed to touch international standards, which, I think, has made the dance troupe unique."

Morsheda Begum Shilpi is a dedicated dancer, who has huge ambitions for her career. Initially, she took dance lessons from Muminul Haque and Farida Akhtar Runu, in Naogaon. Later, she took tutelage under renowned Gurus -- Shazu Ahmed, Deepa Khandakar, Belayet Hossain Khan and Shibli Mohammad.

Although she learned dance in Dhaka, she never wished to form a Dhaka-based troupe. In 1997, Shilpi founded her dance school in Naogaon, where she would initially teach. Later, she formed the dance troupe Nritya Niketan from the selective students of the school. Shilpi, along with her troupe, have received many awards



and accolades for their outstanding performances both at divisional and national levels.

"We have staged the expensive dance-dramas, like *Chitrangada* and *Shyama*, in Naogaon. To inspire tree plantation and the conservation of nature, we choreographed and performed dance-dramas on the themes of nature, social afforestation and monsoon," said Shilpi, who also works as an Office Assistant at the DC Office, Naogaon.

'Dream Girl' awakening the humour

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
Ayushmann Khurrana starrer *Dream Girl* has been creating quite a hype prior to its release. Produced by Balaji Telefilms, *Dream Girl* was released recently, much to a successful premiere.

Fans and admirers who watched the film, have taken to social media to express their joy and congratulate the cast and crew of *Dream Girl*.

Written and directed by Raj Shaandilyaa, Ayushmann plays the character of Karamvir Singh, a small-town boy who stumbles upon a call centre for adult chats. With his knack at mimicking women's voice, he 'becomes' Pooja, for the lonely callers, who are mesmerised by his flirtatious attitude. Soon enough, many of the men in the community become obsessed about Pooja and a series of strange and wild situations begin to unfold.

The cast of *Dream Girl* comprises of Annu Kapoor, Manjot Singh, Nushrat Bharucha, Vijay Raaz and Nidhi Bisht, among others.



PHOTO: COLLECTED



AFD to exhibit 'Adherence'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
The inaugural ceremony of the group art exhibition titled, *Adherence* will take place at Alliance Française de Dhaka on September 17 at 5:30 pm, at Galerie Zoom. Syed Hasan Mahmud, Principal, Jhapi School of Art and Rumi Noman, Director, Shilpangan Gallery are scheduled to attend the opening ceremony as special guests.

The participating artists are Bappy Linkon Roy, Iqbal Bahar Chy, Kuntal Barai, Mahabub Alam, Nabaraj Roy, Nabila Nabi, Nasrin Jahan Onika, Pervaj Hasan Rigan, Pritam Pitu, Prodig Shaha, Raijn Mustafa Dipraw, S M Ehsan, Sajia Rahman Sondha, Sharmin Akter Lina, and Zakia Afrose.

The artists used various methods and materials to express their creativity. The stimulating artworks are meant to provide the audience with a sense of pleasure. The exhibition, which is open to all, will conclude on September 28. Visiting hours are as follows: Monday to Thursday from 3 pm to 9 pm, Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 pm to 8 pm, (closed on Sunday).

