

# "We all need to stand up for what is right"

- Ilias Kanchan

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award winning actor Ilias Kanchan is the founder and Chairman of the road safety movement *Nirapod Shorok Chai* (Nishcha). He was awarded the prestigious Ekushey Padak for this initiative. The campaign started after his wife, Jahanara Kanchan, passed away in a road accident, 26 years ago. The actor-activist spent a major portion of his life in establishing this movement. *The Daily Star* had a conversation with Ilias Kanchan, where he spoke out about his concerns for Nishcha, and his aim of building safer roads for everyone.

*Being the founder of Nishcha, you have been actively contributing towards the road safety movement for the past 26 years. What is your greatest achievement during this time?*

It is very tough to 'awaken' the morals of people. I feel that with this movement, I have somewhat succeeded in doing so. To be honest, I feel like this is one of my greatest achievements. Every year on October 23, the National Road Safety Day is celebrated, and that is also a big accomplishment.

*Recently, a certain group of people have opposed you. What do you have to say about this?*

I will start by quoting Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed. He had once said to me, "Not everyone has the courage to keep up with such a challenging movement, like you have. The majority steps behind out of fear. However, in these 26 years, you have never thought of moving out. Keep it up." Nishcha's movement definitely makes a group of people unhappy, but I will not back down. The only one I fear is the Almighty. Hopefully, one day, they will realise their fallacies.

*What are your expectations from the Government at this moment?*

I would like to request the Government to immediately implement the Road Transport Act 2018, without making any amendments, and to restore discipline in the transport sector.

*You have received a great support from the 18 film organisations.*

Artistes were always in my support. They are my family. I am overwhelmed by their positive reactions on social media. It is a great pleasure to have found many voices that speak alike.

*Is there any message you want to convey to the readers?*

The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, liberated our country. We have sacrificed a lot for our freedom. We all need to stand up for what is right. We have developed financially, but we need to develop as good human beings as well.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Zahid Hasan's 'Bou Niye Bipode' to release soon

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

National Award winning actor Zahid Hasan's latest television drama series *Bou Niye Bipode* is set to release soon. The series, scripted by Zakir Hussain and directed by Adibashi Mizan, will have seven episodes.

The shooting for this production has already begun in Gazipur and will continue for 3 more days at the same location.

Zahid Hasan shared his expectations from the production. "The drama is set in a rural village. I hope my performance and the whole team's effort will not go in vain," he says.

Alongside shooting for *Bou Niye Bipode*, the actor is looking forward to shoot for another television drama series, *Hulusthul*, the work for which will begin next week.

## Star Melodies to serenade tomorrow

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Star Melodies, an initiative of *The Daily Star* to promote Bangla music, will host a special musical evening on five legendary music composers of golden age. Titled, *Songs of Five Legendary Music Composers of Golden-age*, the event will feature selected songs of legendary artistes Salil Chowdhury, Khan Ataur Rahman, Sudhin Dasgupta, Prabir Majumdar, and Jatileswar Mukherjee.

The programme will be held tomorrow at A S Mahmud Seminar hall (Level-03), The Daily Star Centre.

Noted artistes Rumana Islam, Mamun Zahid, Mohammad Rashed, and Tanjina Karim will sing



at the event. Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief, Culture Initiatives, *The Daily Star*, will host the programme.

Invitation passes can be collected from The Daily Star Centre. Seats are limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Shopno Modhur Mohe celebrates classic tunes

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Noted singers Aniruddha Sen Gupta and Chaya Karmakar captivated the audience with the tunes of yesteryears in the musical soiree titled, *Shopno Modhur Mohe*, organised by Rishav Sangeet Angan. The event was held at the Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, recently.

Dr Nipa Choudhury, Director of the Indira Gandhi

Cultural Centre, congratulated the organisers of the programme. "Music has the power to unite people and countries alike. The tunes of the golden era never loses its charm," she said. Special guest Mahbuba Kabir Rumjhum, President of Dhaka Ladies Club and Rabindra Sangeet exponent Sajed Akbar also spoke at the programme.

Rishav Sangeet Angan has began its journey in 2004. After a short pause, the organisation has resumed its activities.

